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The Genuine Book.

AN

INQUIRY,

OR

DELICATE INVESTIGATION

INTO

THE CONDUCT

OF

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS

THE PRINCESS OF WALES;

BEFORE

LORDS ERSKINE, SPENCER, GRENVILLE, AND ELLENBOROUGH,

The Four Special Commissioners of Inquiry,

APPOINTED BY HIS MAJESTY IN THE YEAR 1806.

REPRINTED FROM AN AUTHENTIC COPY, SUPERINTENDED THROUGH THE PRESS

By the Right Hon. SPENCER PERCEVAL.

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CONTENTS.

Page

REPORT of the Commissioners 3

Letter from the Princess of Wales to His Majesty, dated August 12, 1806 10

Note from the Princess of Wales to the Lord Chancellor, dated August 17, 1806 13

Letter from the Princess of Wales to His Majesty, dated August 17, 1806..... ... 13

Note from the Lord Chancellor to the Princess of Wales, dated August 20, 1806 19

Note from the Lord Chancellor to the Princess of Wales, dated August 24, 1806 20

Note from the Lord Chancellor ro the Princess of Wales, dated August 29, 1806 21

Note from the Princess of Wales to the Lord Chancellor, dated August 31, 1806 22

Note from the Lord Chancellor to the Princess of Wales, dated September 2, 1806 24

Letter from the Princess of Wales to His Majesty, dated October 2, 1806 25

Deposition of Thomas Manby, Esq. dated the 22d of September, 1806 181

Deposition of Thomas Lawrence, Esq. dated the 24th of September, 1806..... 182

Deposition of Thomas Edmeades, dated September 26, 1806 184

Memorandums of the Heads of Conversation between Lord Moira, Mr. Lowten, and Mr. Edmeades, on the 14th of May, 1806 187

Deposition of Jonathan Partridge, sworn on the 25th of September, 1806 191

Page

Deposition of Philip Krackeler and Robert Eaglestone, sworn on the 27th of September, 1806 192

Letter from the Princess of Wales to His Majesty, dated the 8th of December, 1806 194

Note from the Lord Chancellor to the Princess of Wales, dated January 28, 1807 199

Note from His Majesty to the Princess of Wales 199

Letter from the Princess of Wales to His Majesty, dated January 29, 1807..... 202

Note from His Majesty to the Princess of Wales, dated January 29, 1807..... 203

Note from His Majesty to the Princess of Wales, dated February 10, 1807 204

Letter from the Princess of Wales to His Majesty, dated February 12, 1807 205

Letter from the Princess of Wales to His Majesty, dated February 16, 1807 206

Letter from the Princess of Wales to His Majesty, dated March 5, 1807 244

APPENDIX (A).

Page

Warrant, or Commission, authorising the Inquiry, dated May 29, 1806 1

Deposition of Charlotte Lady Douglas, sworn June 1, 1806 2

Deposition of Sir John Douglas, sworn on the 6th of June, 1806 8

Deposition of Robert Bidgood, sworn on the 1st of June, 1806 9

Deposition of William Cole, sworn on the 6th of June, 1806 11

Deposition of Francis Lloyd, sworn on the 7th of June, 1806 13

Deposition of Mary Ann Wilson, sworn June 7, 1806 15

Deposition of Samuel Roberts, sworn on the 7th of June, 1806 16

Deposition of Thomas Stikeman, sworn on the 7th of June, 1806 17

Deposition of John Sicard, sworn on the 7th of June, 1806. 20

Deposition of Charlotte Sander, sworn on the 7th of June, 1806 21

Deposition of Sophia Austin, sworn on the 7th of June, 1806 24

Letter from Earl Spencer to Lord Gwydir, dated June 20, 1806 25

Letter from Lord Gwydir to Earl Spencer, dated the 21st of June, 1806 25

Letter from Lady Willoughby to Earl Spencer, dated the 21st of June, 1806 27

Extract from the Register of Births and Baptisms of Children, born in Brownlow-street Lying-in Hospital, dated the 23d of June, 1806 27

Page

Deposition of Elizabeth Gosden, sworn the 23d of June, 1806 28

Deposition of Betty Townley, sworn the 23d of June 29

..... Thomas Edmeades, sworn the 25th day of June, 1806 30

Deposition of Samuel Gillam Mills, sworn the 25th of June, 1806 32

Deposition of Harriet Fitzgerald, sworn the 27th of June, 1806 33

Letter from Earl Spencer to Lord Gwydir, dated the 1st of July, 1806 36

Letter from Lord Gwydir to Earl Spencer, dated the 3d of July, 1806 37

Queries and Answers of Lord Gwydir 37

Robert Bidgood's further Deposition, sworn the 3d of July, 1806 39

Deposition of Sir Francis Millman, sworn the 3d of July, 1806 41

Deposition of Mrs. Lisle, sworn on the 3d of July, 1806 42

Letter from Sir Francis Millman, dated the 4th of July, 1806 46

Deposition of Lord Cholmondeley, sworn on the 16th of July, 1806 47

APPENDIX (B.)

Page

Statement of Lady Douglas, signed on the 3d of December, 1805 - - - - - 49
Narrative of the Duke of Kent, signed on the 27th of December, 1805 - - - - 92
Examinations of Sarah Lampert and William Lampert 97
First Examination of William Cole, dated the 11th of January, 1806 - - - - 98
Second Examination of William Cole, dated the 14th of January, 1806 - - - - 100
Third Examination of William Cole, dated the 30th of January, 1806 - - - - 102
Fourth Examination of William Cole, dated the 23d of February, 1806 - - - - 102
Examination of Robert Bidgood, dated the 4th of April, 1806 - - - - 103
Examination of Sarah Bidgood - - 106
——————— Frances Lloyd, dated the 12th of May, 1806 - - - - - 107

THE REPORT.

May it please your Majesty,

YOUR Majesty having been graciously pleased, by an instrument under your Majesty's Royal Sign Manual, a copy of which is annexed to this Report, to "authorize, empower, and direct us "to inquire into the truth of certain written "declarations, touching the conduct of her "Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, an "abstract of which had been laid before your "Majesty, and to examine upon oath such per-"sons as we should see fit, touching and con-

"cerning the same, and to report to your "Majesty the result of such examinations," We have, in dutiful obedience to your Majesty's commands, proceeded to examine the several witnesses, the copies of whose depositions we have hereunto annexed; and, in further execution of the said commands we now most respectfully submit to your Majesty the report of these examinations as it has appeared to us: But we beg leave at the same time humbly to refer your Majesty, for more complete information, to the examinations themselves, in order to correct any error of judgment, into which we may have unintentionally fallen, with respect to any part of this business. On a reference to the above mentioned declarations, as the necessary foundation of all our proceedings, we found that they consisted in certain statements, which had been laid before his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, respecting the conduct of her Royal Highness the Princess. That these statements, not only, imputed to her Royal Highness great impropriety and indecency of behaviour, but expressly asserted, partly on the ground of certain alledged declarations from the Princess's own mouth, and partly on the personal observation of the informants, the following most important facts; viz. That her Royal Highness had been pregnant in the year 1802, in consequence of an illicit intercourse, and that she had in the same year been secretly delivered of a male child, which child had ever

since that period been brought up by her Royal Highness, in her own house, and under her immediate inspection.

These allegations thus made, had, as we found, been followed by declarations from other persons, who had not indeed spoken to the important facts of the pregnancy or delivery of her Royal Highness, but had related other particulars, in themselves extremely suspicious, and still more so when connected with the assertions already mentioned.

In the painful situation, in which his Royal Highness was placed, by these communications, we learnt that his Royal Highness had adopted the only course which could, in our judgment, with propriety be followed. When informations such as these, had been thus confidently alledged, and particularly detailed, and had been in some degree supported by collateral evidence, applying to other points of the same nature (though going to a far less extent,) one line only could be pursued.

Every sentiment of duty to your Majesty, and of concern for the public welfare, required that these particulars should not be withheld from your Majesty, to whom more particularly belonged the cognizance of a matter of State, so nearly touching the honour of your Majesty's Royal Family, and, by possibility, affecting the Succession of your Majesty's crown.

Your Majesty had been pleased, on your part, to view the subject in the same light. Considering it as a matter which, on every account, demanded the most immediate investigation, your Majesty had thought fit to commit into our hands the duty of ascertaining, in the first instance, what degree of credit was due to the informations, and thereby enabling your Majesty to decide what further conduct to adopt concerning them.

On this review therefore of the matters thus alledged, and of the course hitherto pursued upon them, we deemed it proper, in the first place, to examine those persons in whose declarations the occasion for this Inquiry had originated. Because if they, on being examined upon oath, had retracted or varied their assertions, all necessity for further investigation might possibly have been precluded.

We accordingly first examined on oath the principal informants, Sir John Douglas, and Charlotte his wife; who both positively swore, the former to his having observed the fact of the pregnancy of her Royal Highness, and the latter to all the important particulars contained in her former declaration, and above referred to. Their examinations are annexed to this Report, and are circumstantial and positive.

The most material of those allegations, into the truth of which we had been directed to inquire, being thus far supported by the oath of the parties from whom they had proceeded, we then felt it

our duty to follow up the Inquiry by the examination of such other persons as we judged best able to afford us information, as to the facts in question.

We thought it beyond all doubt that, in this course of inquiry, many particulars must be learnt which would be necessarily conclusive on the truth or falsehood of these declarations. So many persons must have been witnesses to the appearances of an actually existing pregnancy; so many circumstances must have been attendant upon a real delivery; and difficulties so numerous and insurmountable must have been involved in any attempt to account for the infant in question, as the child of another woman, if it had been in fact the child of the Princess; that we entertained a full and confident expectation of arriving at complete proof, either in the affirmative or negative, on this part of the subject.

This expectation was not disappointed. We are happy to declare to your Majesty our perfect conviction that there is no foundation whatever for believing that the child now with the Princess is the child of her Royal Highness, or that she was delivered of any child in the year 1802; nor has any thing appeared to us which would warrant the belief that she was pregnant in that year, or at any other period within the compass of our inquiries.

The identity of the child, now with the Princess, its parentage, the place and the date of

its birth, the time and the circumstances of its being first taken under her Royal Highness's protection, are all established by such a concurrence both of positive and circumstantial evidence, as can, in our judgment, leave no question on this part of the subject. That child was, beyond all doubt, born in the Brownlow-Street Hospital, on the 11th day of July, 1802, of the body of Sophia Austin, and was first brought to the Princess's house in the month of November following. Neither should we be more warranted in expressing any doubt respecting the alledged pregnancy of the Princess, as stated in the original declarations —a fact so fully contradicted, and by so many witnesses, to whom, if true, it must, in various ways have been known, that we cannot think it entitled to the smallest credit. The testimonies on these two points are contained in the annexed depositions and letters. We have not partially abstracted them in this Report, lest, by any unintentional omission, we might weaken their effect; but we humbly offer to your Majesty this our clear and unanimous judgment upon them, formed on full deliberation, and pronounced without hesitation on the result of the whole Inquiry.

We do not however feel ourselves at liberty, much as we should wish it, to close our Report here. Besides the allegations of the pregnancy and delivery of the Princess those declarations, on the whole of which your Majesty has been pleased to command us to inquire and report, contain,

as we have already remarked, other particulars respecting the conduct of her Royal Highness, such as must, especially considering her exalted rank and station, necessarily give occasion to very unfavourable interpretations.

From the various depositions and proofs annexed to this Report, particularly from the examinations of Robert Bidgood, William Cole, Frances Lloyd, and Mrs. Lisle, Your Majesty will perceive that several strong circumstances of this description have been positively sworn to by witnesses, who cannot, in our judgment, be suspected of any unfavourable bias, and whose veracity, in this respect, we have seen no ground to question.

On the precise bearing and effect of the facts thus appearing, it is not for us to decide; these we submit to Your Majesty's wisdom: But we conceive it to be our duty to report on this part of the Inquiry, as distinctly as on the former facts: that, as on the one hand, the facts of pregnancy and delivery are to our minds satisfactorily disproved, so on the other hand we think, that the circumstances to which we now refer, particularly those stated to have passed between her Royal Highness and Captain Manby, must be credited until they shall receive some decisive contradiction; and, if true, are justly entitled to the most serious consideration.

We cannot close this Report, without humbly assuring Your Majesty, that it was, on every account, our anxious wish, to have executed this delicate trust, with as little publicity as the nature of the case would possibly allow; and we entreat Your Majesty's permission to express our full persuasion, that if this wish has been disappointed, the failure is not imputable to any thing unnecessarily said or done by us.

All which is most humbly submitted to Your Majesty.

(Signed) ERSKINE,
SPENCER,
GRENVILLE,
July 14th, 1806. ELLENBOROUGH.

A true Copy,
J. Becket.

The depositions which accompanied this Report will be found in Appendix (A.) numbered from 1 to 29.

Blackheath, Aug. 12, 1806.

SIRE,

WITH the deepest feelings of gratitude to your Majesty, I take the first opportunity to acknowledge having received, as yesterday only, the Report from the Lords Commissioners, which was

dated from the 14th of July. It was brought by Lord Erskine's Footman, directed to the Princess of Wales; besides a note enclosed, the contents of which were, that Lord Erskine sent the Evidences and Report by commands of his Majesty. I had reason to flatter myself that the Lords Commissioners would not have given in the Report, before they had been properly informed of various circumstances, which must for a feeling, and delicate-minded woman, be very unpleasant to have spread, without having the means to exculpate herself. But I can in the face of the Almighty assure your Majesty that your Daughter-in-law is innocent, and her conduct unquestionable; free from all the indecorums, and improprieties, which are imputed to her at present by the Lords Commissioners, upon the evidence of persons, who speak as falsely as Sir John and Lady Douglas themselves. Your Majesty can be sure that I shall be anxious to give the most solemn denial in my power to all the scandalous stories of Bidgood, and Cole; to make my conduct be cleared in the most satisfactory way for the tranquillity of your Majesty, for the honour of your illustrious family, and the gratification of your afflicted daughter-in-law. In the mean time I can safely trust your Majesty's gracious justice to recollect, that the whole of the evidence on which the Commissioners have given credit to the infamous stories charged against me, was taken behind my back, without my having any opportunity to contradict or ex-

plain any thing, or even to point out those persons who might have been called, to prove the little credit which was due to some of the witnesses, from their connection with Sir John and Lady Douglas; and the absolute falsehood of parts of the evidence, which could have been completely contradicted. Oh! gracious King, I now look for that happy moment, when I may be allowed to appear again before your Majesty's eyes, and receive once more the assurance from your Majesty's own mouth that I have your gracious protection; and that you will not discard me from your friendship, of which your Majesty has been so condescending to give me so many marks of kindness; and which must be my only support, and my only consolation, in this country. I remain with sentiments of the highest esteem, veneration and unfeigned attachment,

Sire,

Your Majesty's most dutiful, submissive,
and humble Daughter-in-law and Subject,
(Signed) CAROLINE.

To the King.

Montague House, Aug. 17th, 1806.

The Princess of Wales desires the Lord Chancellor to present her humble duty to the King, and to lay before His Majesty the accompanying letter and papers. The Princess makes this communication by his Lordship's hands, because it relates to the papers with which she has been furnished through his Lordship by His Majesty's commands.

To the Lord Chancellor.

Aug. 17th, 1806.

SIRE,

UPON receiving the copy of the Report, made to your Majesty, by the Commissioners, appointed to inquire into certain charges against my conduct, I lost no time, in returning to your Majesty, my heartfelt thanks, for your Majesty's goodness in commanding that copy to be communicated to me.

I wanted no adviser, but my own heart, to express my gratitude for the kindness, and protection which I have uniformly received from your Majesty. I needed no caution or reserve, in expressing my confident reliance, that that kindness and protection would not be withdrawn from

me, on this trying occasion; and that your Majesty's justice would not suffer your mind to be affected, to my disadvantage, by any part of a Report, founded upon partial evidence, taken in my absence, upon charges, not yet communicated to me, until your Majesty had heard, what might be alledged in my behalf, in answer to it. But your Majesty, will not be surprised, nor displeased, that, I, a woman, a stranger to the laws, and usages of your Majesty's kingdom, under charges, aimed, originally, at my life and honour, should hesitate to determine, in what manner I ought to act, even under the present circumstances, with respect to such accusations, without the assistance of advice in which I could confide. And I have had submitted to me the following observations, respecting the copies of the papers with which I have been furnished. And I humbly solicit from your Majesty's gracious condescension and justice a compliance with the requests, which arise out of them.

In the first place, it has been observed to me, that these copies of the Report, and of the accompanying papers, have come unauthenticated by the signature of any person, high, or low, whose veracity, or even accuracy, is pledged for their correctness, or to whom resort might be had, if it should be necessary, hereafter, to establish, that these papers are correct copies of the originals. I am far from insinuating that the want of such attestations was intentional. No doubt it was omit-

ted through inadvertence; but its importance is particularly confirmed by the state, in which, the copy of Mrs. Lisle's examination has been transmitted to me. For in the third page of that examination there have been two erasures; on one of which, some words have been, subsequently introduced, apparently in a different hand-writing from the body of the examination; and the passage as it stands, is probably incorrect, because the phrase is unintelligible. And this occurs in an important part of her examination.

The humble, but earnest request, which I have to make to your Majesty, which is suggested by this observation, is, that your Majesty would be graciously pleased to direct, that the Report, and the papers which accompany it, and which, for that purpose, I venture to transmit to your Majesty with this letter, may be examined, and then returned to me, authenticated as correct, under the signature of some person, who, having attested their accuracy, may be able to prove it.

In the second place, it has been observed to me, that the Report proceeds, by reference to certain written declarations, which the Commissioners describe as the necessary foundation of all their proceedings, and which contain, as I presume, the charge or information against my conduct. Yet copies of these written declarations have not been given to me. They are described indeed, in the Report, as consisting in certain statements, respecting my conduct, imputing not only, gross impro-

priety of behaviour, but expressly asserting facts of the most confirmed, and abandoned criminality, for which, if true, my life might be forfeited. These are stated to have been followed by declarations from other persons, who, though not speaking to the same facts, had related other particulars, in themselves extremely suspicious, and still more so, as connected with the assertions already mentioned.

On this, it is observed to me, that it is most important that I should know the extent, and the particulars of the charges or informations against me, and by what accusers they have been made; whether I am answering the charges of one set of accusers, or more. Whether the authors of the original declarations, who may be collected from the Report to be Sir John and Lady Douglas, are my only accusers; and the declarations which are said to have followed, are the declarations of persons adduced as witnesses by Sir John and Lady Douglas to confirm their accusation; or whether such declarations are the charges of persons, who have made themselves also, the authors of distinct accusations against me.

The requests, which, I humbly hope, your Majesty will think reasonable, and just to grant, and which are suggested by these further observations are,

First. That your Majesty would be graciously pleased to direct, that I should be furnished with copies of these declarations: and, if they are rightly described, in the Report, as the necessary founda-

tion of all the proceedings of the Commissioners, your Majesty could not, I am persuaded, but have graciously intended, in directing that I should be furnished with a copy of the Report, that I should also see this essential part of the proceeding, the foundation on which it rests.

Secondly, That I may be informed whether I have one or more, and how many accusers; and who they are; as the weight and credit of the accusation cannot but be much affected by the quarter from whence it originates.

Thirdly, That I may be informed of the time when the declarations were made. For the weight and credit of the accusation must, also, be much affected by the length of time, which my accusers may have been contented to have been the silent depositories of those heavy matters of guilt, and charge, and

Lastly, That your Majesty's goodness will secure to me a speedy return of these papers, accompanied, I trust, with the further information which I have solicited; but at all events a speedy return of them. And your Majesty will see, that it is not without reason, that I make this last request, when your Majesty is informed, that, though the Report appears to have been made upon the 14th of July, yet it was not sent to me, till the 11th of the present month. A similar delay, I should, of all things, deplore. For it is with reluctance, that I yield to those suggestions, which have induced me to lay,

these my humble requests, before your Majesty, since they must, at all events, in some degree, delay the arrival of that moment, to which, I look forward with so earnest, and eager an impatience; when I confidently feel, I shall completely satisfy your Majesty, that the whole of these charges are alike unfounded; and are all parts of the same conspiracy against me. Your Majesty, so satisfied, will, I can have no doubt, be as anxious as myself, to secure to me that redress, which, the laws of your kingdom (administering, under your Majesty's just dispensation, equal protection and justice, to every description of your Majesty's subjects,) are prepared to afford to those, who are so deeply injured as I have been. That I have in this case, the strongest claim to your Majesty's justice, I am confident I shall prove: but I cannot, as I am advised, so satisfactorily establish that claim, till your Majesty's goodness shall have directed me, to be furnished with an authentic statement of the actual charges against me, and that additional information, which it is the object of this letter most humbly, yet earnestly, to implore,

I am,

SIRE,

Your Majesty's most dutiful, submissive, and Humble Daughter-in-law.

Montague House. (Signed) C. P.

To the King.

Aug. 20th, 1806.

THE Lord Chancellor has the honour to return, to her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, the box, as he received it this morning from his Majesty. It contains the papers he formerly sent to her Royal Highness, and which he sends as they are, thinking that it may be in the mean time most agreeable to her Royal Highness.

The reason of their not having been authenticated by the Lord Chancellor, was, that he received them as copies, from Earl Spencer, who was in possession of the originals; and he could not therefore, with propriety, do so, not having himself compared them; but her Royal Highness may depend upon having other copies sent to her, which have been duly examined and certified to be so.

The box will be delivered to one of her Royal Highness's Pages, in waiting, by the principal officer, attendant upon the Lord Chancellor, and he trusts he shall find full credit, with her Royal Highness; that in sending a servant formerly with the papers, the moment he received them (no messenger being in waiting, and the officers who attend him, being detained by their duties in court,) he could not be supposed to have intended any possible disrespect, which he is incapable of shewing to any lady, but most especially to any member of His Majesty's Royal family.

To Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales.

Lincoln's Inn Fields, Aug. 24th, 1806.

His Majesty has been pleased to transmit to me the letter which he has received from your Royal Highness, dated the 17th instant; and to direct that I should communicate the same to the Lords Commissioners, who had been commanded by His Majesty to report to His Majesty on the matters therein referred to; and I have now received His Majesty's further commands, in consequence of that letter, to acquaint your Royal Highness, that when I transmitted to your Royal Highness, by the King's commands, and under my signature, the copies of official papers, which had been laid before his Majesty, those papers were judged thereby duly authenticated, according to the usual course and forms of office; and sufficiently so, for the purposes, for which, his Majesty had been graciously pleased to direct them to be communicated to your Royal Highness.

That, nevertheless, there does not appear to be any reason for his Majesty's declining a compliance with the request which your Royal Highness has been advised to make, that those copies should, after being examined with the originals, be attested by some person to be named for that purpose: and that, if your Royal Highness will do me the honour to transmit them to me, they shall be examined and attest-

ed accordingly, after correcting any errors, that may have occurred in the copying.

His Majesty has further authorized me to acquaint your Royal Highness, that he is graciously pleased, on your Royal Highness's request, to consent, that copies of the written declarations referred to in the Report of the Lords Commissioners, should be transmitted to your Royal Highness, and that the same will be transmitted, accordingly so soon as they can be transcribed.

(Signed) ERSKINE C.

The Lord Chancellor has the honour to add to the above official communication that his Purse-bearer respectfully waits her Royal Highness's commands, in case it should be her Royal Highness's pleasure to return the papers by him.

Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales.

Lincoln's Inn Fields, Aug. 29th, 1806.

The Lord Chancellor has the honour to transmit, to her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, the papers,* desired by her Royal Highness, just as he received them a few minutes ago from Earl Spencer, with the note accompanying them.

* *N.B. These papers, being the original declarations, on which the Inquiry proceeded will be found in Appendix (A.)*

Aug. 31st, 1806.

Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales acquaints the Lord Chancellor, that the gentleman, with whom her Royal Highness advises, and who had possession of the copies of the official papers communicated to Her Royal Highness, by the Lord Chancellor, returned from the country late yesterday evening. Upon the subject of transmitting these papers to the Lord Chancellor, for the purpose of their being examined, and authenticated, and then returned to Her Royal Highness, he states, that in consequence of the Lord Chancellor's assurance, contained in his note of the 20th instant, that Her Royal Highness might depend upon having *other* copies sent to her, which had been duly examined and certified to be so; he has relied upon being able to refer to those already sent, and therefore it would be inconvenient to part with them at present: and Her Royal Highness therefore hopes, that the Lord Chancellor will procure for her the other authenticated copies, which his Lordship promised in his note of the 20th inst.

With respect to the copies already sent, being as the Lord Chancellor expresses it, in his letter, of the 24th inst. "judged to be duly authenti-
"cated according to the usual course and forms
"of office, and sufficiently so for the purpose
"for which His Majesty had been graciously

" pleased to direct them to be communicated
" to His Royal Highness, because they were
" transmitted to Her, by the King's commands,
" and under his Lordship's signature,"—Her Royal Highness could never have wished for a more authentic attestation, if she had conceived, that they were authenticated under such signature. But she could not think that the mere signature of his Lordship, on the outside of the envelope, which contained them, could afford any authenticity to the thirty papers, which that envelope contained; or could, in any manner, identify any of those papers, as having been contained in that envelope. And she had felt herself confirmed in that opinion, by his Lordship's saying in his note of the 20th inst. " that the reason of their not having been
" authenticated, by the Lord Chancellor, was,
" that he received them as copies from Earl
" Spencer, who was in possession of the origi-
" nals, *and he could not therefore with propriety*
" *do so, not having himself compared them.*

Her Royal Highness takes this opportunity of acknowledging the receipt of the declarations referred to in the Commissioners' Report.

To the Lord Chancellor.

Lincoln's Inn Fields, Sept. 2nd, 1806.

THE Lord Chancellor has taken the earliest opportunity in his power, of complying with the wishes of Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales. He made the promise of other copies, without any communication, with the other Commissioners, wholly from a desire, to shew every kind of respect and accommodation to Her Royal Highness, in any thing consistent with his duty, and, not at all, from any idea that the papers, as originally sent, (though there might be errors in the copying) were not sufficiently authenticated. An opinion which he is obliged to say he is not removed from; nevertheless the Lord Chancellor has a pleasure in conforming to Her Royal Highness's wishes, and has the honour to inclose the attested copies of the Depositions, as he has received them from Earl Spencer.

To Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales.

To the King.

SIRE,

IMPRESSED, with the deepest sentiments of gratitude, for the countenance and protection, which I have hitherto uniformly received from your Majesty, I approach you, with a heart undismayed, upon

this occasion, so awful and momentous to my character, my honour, and my happiness. I should indeed, (under charges such as have now been brought against me,) prove myself undeserving of the continuance of that countenance and protection, and altogether unworthy of the high station, which I hold in your Majesty's illustrious family, if I sought for any partiality, for any indulgence, for any thing *more* than what is due to me in justice. My entire confidence in your Majesty's virtues assures me that I cannot meet with *less*.

The situation, which I have been so happy as to hold in your Majesty's good opinion and esteem; my station in your Majesty's august family; my life, my honour, and, through mine, the honour of your Majesty's family have been attacked. Sir John and Lady Douglas have attempted to support a direct and precise charge, by which they have dared to impute to me, the enormous guilt of High Treason, committed in the foul crime of Adultery. In this charge, the extravagance of their malice has defeated itself. The Report of the Lords Commissioners, acting under your Majesty's warrant, has most fully cleared me of that charge. But there remain imputations, strangely sanctioned, and countenanced by that Report, on which I cannot remain silent, without incurring the most fatal consequences to my honour and character. For it states to your Majesty, that "The circumstances detailed

against me must be credited, till they are decisively contradicted."

To contradict, with as much decision as the contradiction of an accused can convey; to expose the injustice and malice of my enemies; to shew the utter impossibility of giving credit to their testimony; and to vindicate my own innocence, will be the objects, Sire, of this letter. In the course of my pursuing these objects, I shall have much to complain of, in the substance of the Proceeding itself, and much in the manner of conducting it. That any of these charges should, ever, have been entertained, upon testimony so little worthy of belief, which betrayed, in every sentence, the malice in which it originated; that, even if they were entertained at all, your Majesty should have been advised to pass by the ordinary legal modes of Inquiry into such high crimes, and to refer them to a Commission, open to all the objection, which I shall have to state to such a mode of Inquiry; that the Commissioners, after having negatived the principal charge of substantive crime, should have entertained considerations of matters that amounted to no legal offence, and which were adduced, not as substantive charges in themselves, but as matters in support of the principal accusation; That through the pressure and weight of their official occupations, they did not, perhaps, could not, bestow that attention on the case, which, if given to it, must have enabled them to detect the villany and falsehood of my accusers, and their foul con-

spiracy against me; and must have preserved my character from the weighty imputation which the authority of the Commissioners, has, for a time, cast upon it; but, above all, that they should, upon this *ex parte* examination, without hearing one word that I could urge, have reported to your Majesty an opinion on these matters, so prejudicial to my honour, and from which I can have no appeal, to the laws of the country, (because the charges, constituting no legal offence, cannot be made the ground of a judicial inquiry;)—These and many other circumstances, connected with the length of the Proceeding, which have cruelly aggravated, to my feelings, the pain necessarily attendant upon this Inquiry, I shall not be able to refrain from stating, and urging, as matters of serious lamentation at least, if not of well-grounded complaint.

In commenting upon any part of the circumstances, which have occurred in the course of this Inquiry, whatever observations I may be compelled to make upon any of them, I trust, I never shall forget what is due to officers in high station, and employment, under your Majesty. No apology, therefore, can be required for any reserve in my expressions towards them. But if, in vindicating my innocence against the injustice and malice of my enemies, I should appear to your Majesty not to express myself, with all the warmth and indignation, which innocence, so foully calumniated, must feel, your Majesty will, I trust, not attribute my forbearance to any insensibility to the grievous in-

juries, I have sustained; but will graciously be pleased to ascribe it to the restraint I have imposed upon myself, lest in endeavouring to describe in just terms the motives, the conduct, the perjury, and all the foul circumstances, which characterise and establish the malice of my accusers, I might use language, which, though not unjustly applied to them, might be improper to be used, by me, to any body, or unfit to be employed, by any body, humbly, respectfully, and dutifully addressing your Majesty.

That a fit opportunity has occurred for laying open my heart to your Majesty, perhaps, I shall, hereafter, have no reason to lament. For more than two years, I had been informed, that, upon the presumption of some misconduct in me, my behaviour had been made the subject of investigation, and my neighbours and servants had been examined concerning it. And for some time I had received mysterious and indistinct intimations, that some great mischief was meditated towards me. And, in all the circumstances of my very peculiar situation, it will not be thought strange, that however conscious I was, that I had no just cause of fear, I should yet feel some uneasiness on this account. With surprise certainly (because the first tidings were of a kind to excite surprise,) but without alarm, I received the intelligence, that, for some reason, a formal investigation of some parts of my conduct had been advised, and had actually taken place. His Royal Highness the Duke of

Kent, on the 7th of June, announced it to me. He announced to me, the Princess of Wales, in the first communication made to me, with respect to this proceeding, the near approach of two attornies (one of them, I since find, the solicitor employed by Sir John Douglas), claiming to enter my dwelling, with a warrant, to take away one half of my household, for immediate examination upon a charge against myself. Of the nature of that charge, I was then uninformed. It now appears, it was the charge of High Treason, committed in the infamous crime of adultery. His Royal Highness, I am sure, will do me the justice to represent to your Majesty, that I betrayed no fear, that I manifested no symptoms of conscious guilt, that I sought no excuses to prepare, or to tutor, my servants for the examination which they were to undergo. The only request which I made to His Royal Highness was, that he would have the goodness to remain with me till my servants were gone; that he might bear witness, that I had no conversation with them before they went. In truth, Sire, my anxieties, under a knowledge, that some serious mischief was planning against me, and while I was ignorant of its quality and extent, had been so great that I could not but rejoice at an event, which seemed to promise me an early opportunity of ascertaining what the malice of my enemies intended against me.

It has not been, indeed, without impatience the most painful, that I have passed the interval, which

has since elapsed. When once it was not only known to me, but to the world (for it was known to the world) that Inquiry of the gravest nature had been instituted into my conduct, I looked to the conclusion, with all the eagerness that could belong to an absolute conviction, that my innocence, and my honour, to the disgrace and confusion of my accusers, would be established; and that the groundless malice, and injustice of the whole charge would be manifested to the world, as widely as the calumny had been circulated. I knew that the result of an *ex parte* inquiry, from its very nature, could not, unless it fully asserted my entire innocence, be in any degree just. And I had taught myself most firmly to believe, that it was *utterly impossible*, that any opinion, which could, in the smallest degree, work a prejudice to my honour and character, could ever be expressed in any terms, by any persons, in a Report upon a solemn formal Inquiry, and more especially to your Majesty, without my having some notice, and some opportunity of being heard. And I was convinced, that, if the Proceeding allowed me, before an opinion was expressed, the ordinary means, which accused persons have, of vindicating their honour and their innocence, my honour and my innocence must, in any opinion, which could then be expressed, be fully vindicated, and effectually established. What then, Sire, must have been my astonishment, and my dismay, when I saw, that notwithstanding the principal accusation

was found to be utterly false, yet some of the witnesses to those charges which were brought in support of the principal accusation,—witnesses, whom, any person, interested to have protected my character, would easily have shewn, out of their own mouths, to be utterly unworthy of credit, and confederates in foul conspiracy with my false accusers, are reported to be "free from "all suspicion of unfavourable bias;" their veracity, "in the judgment of the Commissioners, "not to be questioned;" and their infamous stories, and insinuations against me, to be "such "as deserve the most serious consideration, and as "must be credited till decisively contradicted."

The Inquiry, after I thus had notice of it, continued for above* two months. I venture not to complain, as if it had been unnecessarily protracted. The important duties, and official avocations of the Noble Lords, appointed to carry it on, may naturally account for, and excuse, some delay. But however excusable it may have been, your Majesty will easily conceive the pain and anxiety, which this interval of suspence has occasioned; and your Majesty will not be surprised, if I further represent, that I have found a great aggravation of my painful sufferings, in the delay which occurred in communicating the Report to me. For though it is dated on the 14th July,

* The time that the Inquiry was pending, after this notice of it, is here confounded with the time which elapsed before the Report was communicated to Her Royal Highness. The Inquiry itself only lasted to the 14th or 16th of July, which is but between five and six weeks from the 7th of June.

I did not receive it, notwithstanding your Majesty's gracious commands, till the 11th of August. It was due unquestionably to your Majesty, that the result of an Inquiry, commanded by your Majesty, upon advice, which had been offered, touching matters of the highest import, should be first, and immediately, communicated to you. The respect and honour, due to the Prince of Wales, the interest which he must necessarily have taken in this Inquiry, combined to make it indisputably fit, that the result should be forthwith also stated to His Royal Highness. I complain not therefore that it was, too early, communicated to any one: I complain only, (and I complain most seriously, for I felt it most severely) of the delay in its communication to me.

Rumour had informed the world, that the Report had been early communicated to your Majesty, and to His Royal Highness. I did not receive the benefit, intended for me by your Majesty's gracious command, till a month after the Report was signed. But the same rumour had represented me, to my infinite prejudice, as in possession of the Report, during that month; and the malice of those, who wished to stain my honour, has not failed to suggest all that malice could infer, from its remaining in that possession, so long unnoticed. May I be permitted to say, that, if the Report acquits me, my innocence entitled me to receive from those, to whom your Majesty's commands had been given, an immediate notification of the fact that it did acquit me?

That, if it condemned me, the weight of such a sentence should not have been left to settle, in any mind, much less upon your Majesty's, for a month, before I could even begin to prepare an answer, which, when begun, could not speedily be concluded; and that, if the Report could be represented as both acquitting and condemning me, the reasons, which suggested the propriety of an early communication in each of the former cases, combined to make it proper and necessary in the latter.

And why all consideration of my feelings was thus cruelly neglected; why was I kept upon the rack, during all this time, ignorant of the result of a charge, which affected my honour and my life; and why, especially in a case, where such grave matters were to continue to be "credited, to the prejudice of my honour," till they were "decidedly contradicted," the means of knowing, what it was, that I must, at least, endeavour to contradict, were withholden from me, a single unnecessary hour, I know not, and I will not trust myself, in the attempt, to conjecture.

On the 11th of August, however, I at length received from the Lord Chancellor, a packet containing copies of the Warrant or Commission authorizing the Inquiry; of the Report; and of the Examinations on which the Report was founded. And your Majesty will be graciously pleased to recollect, that on the 13th I returned my grateful

thanks to your Majesty, for having ordered these papers to be sent to me.

Your Majesty will readily imagine that, upon a subject of such importance, I could not venture to trust only to my own advice; and those with whom I advised, suggested, that the written Declarations or Charges, upon which the Inquiry had proceeded, and which the Commissioners refer to in their Report, and represent to be the essential foundation of the whole proceeding, did not accompany the Examinations and Report; and also that the papers themselves were not authenticated. I therefore, ventured to address your Majesty, upon these supposed defects in the communication, and humbly requested that the copies of the papers, which I then returned, might, after being examined, and authenticated, be again transmitted to me; and that I might also be furnished with copies of the written Declarations, so referred to, in the Report. And my humble thanks are due for your Majesty's gracious compliance, with my request. On the 29th of August, I received, in consequence, the attested copies of those Declarations, and of a Narrative of his Royal Highness the Duke of Kent; and a few days after, on the 3rd of September, the attested copies of the Examinations which were taken before the Commissioners.

The Papers which I have received are as follow:

*The Narrative of his Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, dated 27th of December, 1805.

* See Appendix (B).

A Copy of the written Declaration of Sir John and Lady Douglas, dated December 3, 1805.

A Paper containing the written Declarations, or Examinations, of the persons hereafter enumerated; —The title to these Papers is,

"For the purpose of confirming the Statement "made by Lady Douglas, of the circumstances "mentioned in her Narrative, The following Ex- "aminations have been taken, and which have "been signed by the several persons who have "been examined."—

Two of Sarah Lampert;—one, dated Cheltenham, 8th January, 1806,—and the other, 29th March, 1806.

One of William Lampert, baker, 114, Cheltenham, apparently of the same date with the last of Sarah Lampert's.

Four of William Cole, dated respectively, 11th January, 14th January, 30th January, and 23d February, 1806.

One of Robert Bidgood, dated Temple, 4th April, 1806.

One of Sarah Bidgood, dated Temple, 23d April, 1806; and

One of Frances Lloyd, dated Temple, 12th May, 1806.

The other Papers and Documents which accompanied the Report, are,*

* See Appendix (A).

1806.	No.	
29 May,	1.	The King's Warrant or Commission.
1 June,	2.	Deposition of Lady Douglas.
1	3.	of Sir John Douglas.
6	4.	of Robert Bidgood.
6	4.	of W. Cole.
7	6.	of Frances Lloyd.
7	7.	of Mary Wilson.
7	8.	of Samuel Roberts.
7.	9.	of Thomas Stikeman.
7	10.	of J. Sicard.
7	11.	of Charlotte Sander.
7	12.	of Sophia Austin.
20	13.	Letter from Lord Spencer to Lord Gwydir.
21	14.	from Lord Gwydir to Lord Spencer.
21	15.	from Lady Willoughby to Lord Spencer.
23.	16.	Extract from Register of Brownlow Street Hospital.
23	17.	Deposition of Elizabeth Gosden.
23	18.	of Betty Townley.
25	19.	of Thomas Edmeades.
25	20.	of Samuel G. Mills.
27	21.	of Harriet Fitzgerald.
1 July,	22.	Letter from Lord Spencer to Lord Gwydir.
3	23.	from Lord Gwydir to Lord Spencer.

3 July,	24.	Queries of Lady Willoughby and Answers.
3	25.	Further Deposition of R. Bidgood.
3	26.	Deposition of Sir Francis Lisle.
3	27	of Mrs. Lisle,
4	28.	Letter from Sir Francis Milman to the Lord Chancellor.
16	29.	Deposition of Lord Cholmondeley.
14	30.	The Report.

By the Copy, which I have received, of the Commission, or Warrant, under which the Inquiry has been prosecuted, it appears to be an instrument under your Majesty's Sign Manual, not countersigned, not under any Seal.—It recites, that an Abstract of certain written Declarations, touching my conduct, (without specifying by whom those Declarations were made, or the nature of the matters, touching which they had been made, or even by whom the Abstract had been prepared,) had been laid before your Majesty; into the truth of which it purports to authorize the four noble Peers, who are named in it, to inquire and to examine upon oath, such persons as they think fit: and to report to your Majesty the result of their Examination. By referring to the written Declarations, it appears that they contain allegations against me, amounting to the charge of High Treason, and also other matters, which, if understood to be, as they seem to have been acted and reported upon, by the Commissioners, not as evidence

confirmatory (as they are expressed to be in their title) of the principal charge, but as distinct and substantive subjects of examination, cannot, as I am advised, be represented as in law, amounting to crimes. How most of the Declarations referred to were collected, by whom, at whose solicitation, under what sanction, and before what persons, magistrates or others, they were made, does not appear. By the title, indeed, which all the written Declarations, except Sir John and Lady Douglas's bear; viz. "That they had been taken for the purpose of confirming Lady Douglas's Statement," it may be collected that they had been made by her, or at least by Sir John Douglas's procurement. And the concluding passage of one of them, I mean the fourth declaration of W. Cole, strengthens this opinion, as it represents Sir John Douglas, accompanied by his Solicitor Mr. Lowten, to have gone down as far as Cheltenham for the examination of two of the witnesses whose declarations are there stated. I am, however, at a loss to know, at this moment, whom I am to consider, or whom I could legally fix, as my false accuser.—From the circumstance last mentioned, it might be inferred, that Sir John and Lady Douglas, or one of them, is that accuser. But Lady Douglas, in her written Declaration, so far from representing the information which she then gives, as moving voluntarily from herself, expressly states that she gives it under the direct

command of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and the papers leave me without information, from whom any communication to the Prince originated, which induced him to give such commands.

Upon the question, how far the advice is agreeable to law, under which it was recommended to your Majesty, to issue this Warrant or Commission, not countersigned, nor under Seal, and without any of your Majesty's advisers, therefore, being, on the face of it, responsible for its issuing, I am not competent to determine. And undoubtedly, considering that the two high legal authorities, the Lord Chancellor, and the Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench, consented to act under it, it is with the greatest doubt and diffidence, that I can bring myself to express any suspicion of its illegality. But if it be, as I am given to understand it is, open to question, whether, consistently with law, your Majesty should have been advised, to command, by this warrant or commission, persons, (not to act in any known character, as Secretaries of State, as Privy Counsellors, as Magistrates otherwise empowered; but to act, as Commissioners, and under the sole authority of such warrant, to inquire (without any authority to hear and determine any thing upon the subject of those Inquiries,) into the known crime of High Treason, under the sanction of oaths, to be administered by them, as such Commissioners, and to report the result thereof to your Majesty. If, I say, there can be any question upon the le-

gality of such a Warrant or Commission, the extreme hardship, with which, it has operated upon me, the extreme prejudice, which it has done to my character, and to which, such a proceeding must ever expose the person who is the object of it, obliges me, till I am fully convinced of its legality, to forbear from acknowledging its authority; and, with all humility and deference to your Majesty, to protest against it, and against all the proceedings under it.

If this, indeed, were matter of mere form, I should be ashamed to urge it. But the actual hardships and prejudice, which I have suffered, by this proceeding, are most obvious. For, upon the principal charge against me, the Commissioners have most satisfactorily, and "without the least hesitation," for such is their expression, reported their opinion of its falsehood. Sir John and Lady Douglas therefore, who have sworn to its truth, have been guilty of the plainest falsehood; yet upon the supposition of the illegality of this Commission their falsehood must, as I am informed, go unpunished. Upon that supposition, the want of legal authority in the Commissioners to inquire and to administer an oath, will render it impossible to give to this falsehood the character of Perjury. But this is by no means the circumstance which I feel the most severely. Beyond the vindicating of my own character, and the consideration of providing for my future security, I can assure your Majesty, that the punishment of Sir John and Lady Doug-

las would afford me no satisfaction. It is not therefore with regard to that part of the charge, which is negatived, but with respect to those, which are sanctioned by the Report, those, which, not aiming at my life, exhaust themselves upon my character, and which the Commissioners have, in some measure, sanctioned by their Report, that I have the greatest reason to complain. Had the Report sanctioned the principal charge, constituting a known legal crime, my innocence would have emboldened me, at all risques, (and to more, no person has ever been exposed from the malice and falsehood of accusers) to have demanded that trial, which could legally determine upon the truth or falsehood of such charge. Though I should even then indeed have had some cause to complain, because I should have gone to that trial, under the prejudice, necessarily raised against me, by that Report; yet in a proceeding before the just, open, and known tribunals of your Majesty's kingdom, I should have had a safe appeal from the result of an *ex parte* investigation. An investigation which has exposed me to all the hardships of a *secret* Inquiry, without giving me the benefit of *secrecy;* and to all the severe consequences of a public investigation, in point of injury to my character, without affording me any of its substantial benefits in point of security. But the charges, which the Commissioners do sanction by their Report, describing them, with a mysterious obscurity and

indefinite generality, constitute, as I am told, no legal crime. They are described as "instances "of great impropriety and indecency of beha- "viour" which must "occasion the most unfa- "vourable interpretations," and they are reported to your Majesty, and they are stated to be, "cir- "cumstances which must be credited till they are "decisively contradicted."

From this opinion, this judgment of the Commissioners, bearing so hard upon my character; (and that a female character, how delicate, and how easily to be affected by the breath of calumny your Majesty well knows) I can have no appeal. For, as the charges constitute no legal crimes, they cannot be the subjects of any legal trial. I can call for no trial. I can therefore have no appeal; I can look for no acquittal. Yet this opinion, or this judgment, from which I can have no appeal, has been pronounced against me upon mere *exparte* investigation.

This hardship, Sire, I am told to ascribe to the nature of the proceeding under this Warrant or Commission; For had the Inquiry been entered into before your Majesty's Privy Council, or before any magistrates, authorised by law as such, to inquire into the existence of treason, the known course of proceeding before that council, or such magistrates, the known extent of their jurisdiction over crimes, and not over the proprieties of behaviour, would have preserved me from the possibility of having matters made the subjects of inquiry which had in law no substantive criminal

character, and from the extreme hardship of having my reputation injured by calumny altogether unfounded, but rendered at once more safe to my enemies, and more injurious to me, by being uttered, in the course of a proceeding, assuming the grave semblance of legal form. And it is by the nature of this proceeding, (which could alone have countenanced or admitted of this licentious latitude of inquiry, into the proprieties of behaviour in private life, with which no court, no magistrate, no public law has any authority to interfere,) that I have been deprived of the benefit of that entire and unqualified acquittal and discharge from this accusation, to which the utter and proved falsehood of the accusation itself so justly entitled me.

I trust therefore that your Majesty will see that if this proceeding is not one to which, by the known laws of your Majesty's kingdom, I ought to be subject, that it is no cold formal objection which leads me to protest against it.

I am ready to acknowledge, Sire, from the consequences which might arise to the public, from such misconduct as have been falsely imputed to me, that my honour and virtue are of more importance to the state than those of other women. That my conduct therefore may be fitly subjected, when necessary, to a severer scrutiny. But it cannot follow, because my character, is of more importance, that it may therefore be attacked with more impunity. And as I know, that this mischief has been pending over my head for more

than two years, that private examinations of my neighbours' servants, and of my own, have, at times, during that interval, been taken, for the purpose of establishing charges against me, not indeed by the instrumentality of Sir John and Lady Douglas alone, but by the sanction, and in the presence of The Earl of Moira (as your Majesty will perceive by the deposition of Jonathan Partridge which I subjoin;*) and as I know also, and make appear to your Majesty likewise by the same means, that declarations of persons of unquestionable credit, respecting my conduct, attesting my innocence, and directly falsifying a most important circumstance respecting my supposed pregnancy, mentioned in the declarations, on which the Inquiry was instituted; as I know, I say, that those declarations, so favourable to me, appear to my infinite prejudice, not to have been communicated to your Majesty, when that Inquiry was commanded; and as I know not how soon nor how often proceedings against me may be meditated by my enemies, I take leave to express my humble trust, that, before any other proceedings may be had against me, (desirable as it may have been thought, that the Inquiry should have been of the nature, which has, in this instance, obtained,) your Majesty would be graciously pleased to require to be advised, whether my guilt, if I were guilty, could not be as effectually dis-

* See the depositions at the end of this letter.

covered and punished, and my honour and innocence, if innocent, be more effectually secured and established by other more known and regular modes of proceeding.

Having therefore, Sire, upon these grave reasons, ventured to submit, I trust without offence, these considerations upon the nature of the Commission and the proceedings under it, I will now proceed to observe upon the Report, and the Examinations; and, with your Majesty's permission, I will go through the whole matter, in that course which has been observed by the Report itself, and which an examination of the important matters that it contains, in the order in which it states them, will naturally suggest.

The Report, after referring to the Commission or Warrant under which their Lordships were acting, after stating that they had proceeded to examine the several witnesses, whose depositions they annexed to their Report, proceeds to state the effect of the written declarations, which the Commissioners considered as the essential foundation of the whole proceeding. "That they were statements which had been laid before his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, respecting the conduct of her Royal Highness the Princess; that these statements not only imputed to her Royal Highness, great impropriety and indecency of behaviour, but expressly asserted, partly on the ground of certain alledged declarations from the Princess's own mouth, and partly on the personal observation

of the informants, the following most important facts; viz. that her Royal Highness had been pregnant in the year 1802, in consequence of an illicit intercourse; and that she had in the same year, been secretly delivered of a male child; which child had ever since that period been brought up by her Royal Highness in her own house, and under her immediate inspection. These allegations thus made, had, as the Commissioners found, been followed by declarations from other persons, who had not indeed spoken to the important facts of the pregnancy or delivery of her Royal Highness, but had related other particulars, in themselves extremely suspicious, and still more so, when connected with the assertions already mentioned. The Report then states, that, in the painful situation, in which his Royal Highness was placed by these declarations, they learnt that he had adopted the only course which could, in their judgment, with propriety be followed, when informations such as these had been thus confidently alledged and particularly detailed, and had in some degree been supported by collateral evidence, applying to other points of the same nature (though going to a far less extent,) one line could only be pursued."

"Every sentiment of duty to your Majesty, and of concern for the public welfare required that these particulars should not be withheld from your Majesty, to whom more particularly belonged the cognizance of a matter of state, so nearly touching the honour of your Majesty's Royal Family, and

by possibility affecting the succession to your Majesty's crown."

The Commissioners, therefore, your Majesty observes, going, they must permit me to say, a little out of their way, begin their Report, by expressing a clear and decided opinion, that his Royal Highness was properly advised (for your Majesty will undoubtedly conclude, that, upon a subject of this importance, his Royal Highness could not but have acted by the advice of others), in referring this complaint to your Majesty, for the purpose of its undergoing the investigation which has followed. And unquestionably, if the charge, referred to, in this Report, as made by Sir John and Lady Douglas, had been presented under circumstances, in which any reasonable degree of credit could be given to them, or even if they had not been presented in such a manner, as to impeach the credit of the informers, and to bear internal evidence of their own incredibility, I should be the last person, who would be disposed to dispute the wisdom of the advice which led to make them the subject of the gravest and most anxious Inquiry. And your Majesty, acting upon a mere abstract of the declarations, which was all, that, by the recital of the warrant, appears to have been laid before your Majesty, undoubtedly could not but direct an Inquiry concerning my conduct. For though I have not been furnished with that abstract, yet I must presume that it described the criminatory contents of these declarations, much in the same manner, as

they are stated in the Report. And the criminatory parts of these declarations, if viewed without reference to those traces of malice and resentment, with which the declarations* of Sir John and Lady Douglas abound; if abstracted from all these circumstances, which shew the extreme improbability of the story, the length of time, which my accuser had kept my alledged guilt concealed, the contradictions observable in the declarations of the other witnesses, all which, I submit to your Majesty, are to an extent to cast the greatest discredit upon the truth of these declarations;—abstracted, I say, from these circumstances, the criminatory parts of them were unquestionably such, as to have placed your Majesty under the necessity of directing some Inquiry concerning them. But that those, who had the opportunity of reading the long and malevolent narration of Sir John and Lady Douglas, should not have hesitated before they gave any credit to it, is matter of the greatest astonishment to me.

The improbability of the story, would of itself, I should have imagined (unless they believed me to be as insane as Lady Douglas insinuates), have been sufficient to have staggered the belief of any unprejudiced mind. For to believe that story, they were to begin with believing that a person guilty of so foul a crime, so highly penal, so fatal to her honour, her station, and her life, should gratuitously, and uselessly, have confessed it. Such a person under the necessity of concealing her pregnancy,

* See Appendix (B.)

might have been indispensably obliged to confide her secret with those, to whom she was to look for assistance in concealing its consequences. But Lady Douglas, by her own account, was informed by me of this fact, for no purpose whatever. She makes me, as those who read her declarations cannot fail to have observed, state to her, that she should, on no account, be entrusted with any part of the management by which the birth was to be concealed.* They were to believe also, that, anxious as I must have been to have concealed the birth of any such child, I had determined to bring it up in my own house; and what would exceed, as I should imagine, the extent of all human credulity, that I had determined to suckle it myself:† that I had laid my plan, if discovered, to have imposed it upon his Royal Highness as his child. Nay, they were to believe, that I had stated, and that Lady Douglas had believed the statement to be true, that I had in fact attempted to suckle it, and only gave up that part of my plan, because it made me nervous, and was too much for my health.§ And, after all this, they were then to believe, that having made Lady Douglas, thus unnecessarily, the confidant, of this most important and dangerous secret; having thus put my character and my life in her hands, I sought an occasion, wantonly, and without provocation, from the mere fickleness, and wilfulness of my own mind, to quarrel with her, to insult her openly and violently in my own house, to

* See Appendix (B.) p. 61. † Ibid. p. 61. § Ibid. p. 76.

endeavour to ruin her reputation; to expose her in infamous and indecent drawings enclosed in letters to her husband. The letters indeed are represented to have been anonymous, but, though anonymous, they are stated to have been written with my own hand, so undisguised in penmanship and style, that every one who had the least acquaintance with either, could not fail to discover them, and (as if it were through fear, lest it should not be sufficiently plain from whom they came) that I had sealed them with a seal, which I had shortly before used on an occasion of writing to her husband. All this they were to believe upon the declaration of a person, who, with all that loyalty and attachment which she expresses to your Majesty, and his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, with all her obligation to the whole Royal Family, (to whom she expresses herself to be bound by ties of respectful regard and attachment which nothing can ever break;) with all her dread of the mischievous consequences to the country, which might arise, from the disputed succession to the Crown, on the pretensions of an illegitimate child of mine, nevertheless continued, after this supposed avowal of my infamy, and my crime, after my supposed acknowledgment of the birth of this child, which was to occasion all this mischief, to preserve, for near a twelvemonth her intimacy and apparent friendship with me. Nay for two years more, after that intimacy had ceased, after that friendship had been broken off, by my alledged misbehaviour to her,

continued still faithful to my secret, and never disclosed it till (as her declaration states it) "The "Princess* of Wales recommenced a fresh torrent "of outrage against Sir John; and Sir John dis-"covered that she was attempting to undermine "his and Lady Douglas's character."

Those, then, who had the opportunity of seeing the whole of this Narrative, having had their jealousy awakened by these circumstances to the improbability of the story, and to the discredit of the informer, when they came to observe, how maliciously every circumstance that imagination could suggest, as most calculated to make a woman contemptible and odious, was scraped and heaped up together in this Narrative, must surely have had their eyes opened to the motives of my accusers, and their minds cautioned against giving too easy a credit to their accusation, when they found my conversation to be represented as most loose, and infamous; my mind uninstructed and unwilling to learn; my language, with regard to your Majesty and the whole of your Royal Family, foully disrespectful and offensive; and all my manners and habits of life most disgusting, I should have flattered myself, that I could not have been, in character, so wholly unknown to them, but that they must have observed a spirit, and a colouring at least in this representation, which must have proved much more against the disposition and character of the informers, and the quality of

* See Appendix, p. 90.

their information, than against the person who was the object of their charge. But when, in addition to all this, the Declaration states,* that I had, with respect to my unfortunate and calamitous separation from his Royal Highness, stated that I had acknowledged myself to have been the aggressor, from the beginning, and myself alone; and when it further states, that if any other woman had so played and sported with her husband's comfort and popularity, she would have been turned out of his house, or left alone in it, and have deservedly forfeited *her place in society;* and further still, when, alledging that I had once been desirous of procuring a separation from his Royal Highness, and had pressed former Chancellors to accomplish this purpose, it flippantly adds, that †"The Chancellor may now perhaps be able to grant her request." The malicious object of the whole must surely have been most obvious.

For supposing these facts to have been all true; supposing this infamous and libellous description of my character had been nothing but a correct and faithful representation of my vices and my infamy, would it not have been natural to have asked why they were introduced into this Declaration? What effect could they have had upon the charge of crime, and of Adultery, which it was intended to establish? If it was only, in execution of a painful duty, which a sense of loyalty to your Majesty,

* See Appendix (B.) p. 65. † Appendix (B.) p. 59, *the note.*

and obedience to the commands of the Prince of Wales at length reluctantly drew from them, why all this malicious accompaniment?* "His Royal Highness" indeed they say, "desired that they would communicate the whole circumstances of their acquaintance with me, from the day they first spoke with me till the present time; a full detail of all that passed during our acquaintance," and "how they became known to me, it appearing to his Royal Highness, from the representation of his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, that his Majesty's dearest interests, and those of this country, were very deeply interested in the question," and "that he particularly commanded them to be very circumstantial in their detail respecting all they might know relative to the child that I affected to adopt."

But from the whole of this it is sufficiently apparent, that the particularity of this detail was required, by his Royal Highness, in respect of matters connected with that question, in which the dearest interests of your Majesty and this country were involved; and not of circumstances which could have no bearing on those interests. If it had been therefore true, as I most solemnly protest it is not, that I had in the confidence of private conversation, so far forgot all sense of decency, loyalty, and gratitude, as to have expressed myself with that disrespect of your Majesty which is imputed to me;—If I had been

* See Appendix, p. 90.

what I trust those who have lived with me, or ever have partaken of my society, would not confirm, of a mind so uninformed and uncultivated, without education or talents, or without any desire of improving myself, incapable of employment, of a temper so furious and violent, as altogether to form a character, which no one could bear to live with, who had the means of living elsewhere;—What possible progress would all this make towards proving that I was guilty of adultery? These, and such like insinuations, as false as they are malicious, could never have proved crime in me, however manifestly they might display the malice of my accusers.

Must it not, then, have occurred to any one, who had seen the whole of this Narrative, if the motive of my accusers was, as they represent it, merely that of good patriots, of attached and loyal subjects, bound, in execution of a painful duty, imposed upon them by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, to disclose, in detail, all the facts which could establish my guilt, that these circumstances never would have made a part of their detail? But on the other hand, if their object was to traduce me;—if, falsely attributing to his Royal Highness, sentiments which could belong to no generous bosom, but measuring his nature by their own, they thought, vainly and wickedly, to ingratiate themselves with him, by being the instruments of accomplishing my ruin;—if aiming at depriving me of my rank and station, or of driving me from this

country, they determined to bring forward a charge of Treason against me, which, though they knew in their consciences it was false, yet they might hope would serve at least as a cover, and a pretence, for such an imputation upon my character, as, rendering my life intolerable in this country, might drive me to seek a refuge in another; if, the better to effectuate this purpose, they had represented all my misfortunes as my faults, and *my* faults alone, drawn an odious and disgusting picture of me, to extinguish every sentiment of pity and compassion, which, in the generosity, not only of your Majesty's royal bosom, and of the members of your Royal Family, but of all the inhabitants of your kingdom, might arise to commiserate the unfortunate situation of a stranger, persecuted under a charge originating in their malice;—if, for this, they flung out, that I had justly forfeited my station in society, and that a separation from my husband was, what I myself had once wished, and what the Chancellor might now perhaps procure for me;—or, if, in short, their object was to obtain my condemnation by prejudice, inflamed by falsehood, which never could be obtained by justice informed by truth, then the whole texture of the declaration is consistent, and it is well contrived and executed for its purpose. But it is strange, that its purpose should have escaped the detection of intelligent and impartial minds. There was enough at least to have made them pause before they gave such a degree of

credit to informations of this description, as to have made them the foundations of so important and decisive a step, as that of advising them to be laid before your Majesty.

And, indeed, such seems to have been the effect which this declaration at first produced. Because if it had been believed, the only thing to have been done (according to the judgment of the Commissioners,) would have been to have laid it immediately before your Majesty, to whom, upon every principle of duty, the communication was due. But the declaration was made on the 3rd of December, in the last year, and the communication was not made to your Majesty till the very end of May. And that interval appears to have been employed in collecting those other additional declarations, which are referred to in the Report, and which your Majesty has likewise been pleased, by your gracious commands, to have communicated to me.

These additional declarations do not, I submit, appear to furnish much additional reason for believing the incredible story. They were taken indeed* "for the purpose," (for they are so described, this is the title which is prefixed to them in the authentic copies, with which I have been furnished,) "for the purpose of confirming the "statement made by Lady Douglas of the cir-"cumstances mentioned in her narrative," and they are the examinations of two persons, who appear to have formerly lived in the family of Sir John and Lady Douglas, and of several servants of

my own; they are filled with the hearsay details of other servants' declarations. And one of them, W. Cole, seems to have been examined over and over again. No less than four of his examinations are given, and some of these evidently refer to other examinations of his, which are not given at all.

These, I submit to your Majesty, are rendered, from this marked circumstance, particularly undeserving of credit; because, in the only instance in which the hearsay statement, related to one servant, was followed by the examination of the other, who was stated to have made it, (I mean an instance in which Cole relates what he had heard said by F. Lloyd)* F. Lloyd does not appear to have said any such thing, or even to have heard what she is by him related to have said, and she relates the fact that she really did hear, stripped of all the particulars with which Cole had coloured it, and which alone made it in any degree deserving to be mentioned. Besides this, the parents of the child which is ascribed to me by Lady Douglas, are plainly pointed out, and a clue is afforded, by which if followed, it would have been as easy to have ascertained, that that child was no child of mine, (if indeed it ever had been seriously believed to be so) and to have proved whose child it was, before the appointment of the Commissioners, as it had been found to be afterwards.

* Appendix (B.) No. 3.

So far, therefore, from concurring with the Commissioners in approving the advice, under which his Royal Highness had acted, I conceive, it to have been at least cruel and inconsiderate, to have advised the transmission of such a charge to your Majesty, till they had exhausted all the means which private inquiry could have afforded, to ascertain its falsehood or its truth.

And when it appears that it was not thought necessary, upon the first statement of it, as the Commissioners seem to have imagined, forthwith to transmit to your Majesty; but it was retained for near six months, from the beginning of December till near the end of May; what is due to myself obliges me to state, that if there had but been in that interval, half the industry employed, to remove suspicions, which was exerted to raise them, there would never have existed a necessity for troubling your Majesty with this charge at all. I beg to be understood as imputing this solely to the advice given to his Royal Highness. He must, of necessity, have left the detail and the determination upon this business to others. And it is evident to me, from what I now know, that his Royal Highness was not fairly dealt with; that material information was obtained, to disprove part of the case against me, which, not appearing in the declarations that were transmitted to your Majesty, I conclude was never communicated to his Royal Highness.

Feeling, Sire, strongly, that I have much to complain of, that this foul charge should have been so readily credited to my great prejudice, as to have occasioned that advice to be given which recommended the transmission of it to your Majesty, (who, once formally in possession of it, could not fail to subject it to some inquiry.) I have dwelt perhaps, at a tedious length, in disputing the propriety of the Commissioners' judgment, in thus approving the course which was pursued. And, looking to the event, and all the circumstances connected with it, perhaps I have reason to rejoice that the Inquiry has taken place. For if three years concealment of my supposed crime) could not impeach the credit of my accusers, three times that period might perhaps be thought to have left that credit, still unimpaired. And, had the false charge been delayed till death had taken away the real parents of the child, which Lady Doug as charges to be mine; if time had deprived me of those servants and attendants who have been able so fully to disprove the fact of my alledged pregnancy, I know not where I could have found the means or disproving facts and charges, so falsely, so confidently, and positively, sworn to, as those to which Lady Douglas has attested.

Following, as I proposed, the course taken in the Report, I next come to that part of it, to which unquestionably I must recur with the greatest satisfaction; because it is thatpart, which so com-

pletely absolves me of every possible suspicion, upon the two material charges, of pregnancy and child-birth.

The Commissioners state in their Report,* that they began by examining "on oath the two principal informants, Sir John and Lady Douglas, who "both positively swore, the former to his having "observed the fact of pregnancy, and the latter to "all the important particulars contained in her "former declaration, and above referred to.* "Their examinations are annexed to the Report, "and are circumstantial and positive." The most material of "the allegations into the truth of which "they had been directed to inquire, being thus far "supported by the oath of the parties from whom "they had proceeded," they state, "that they "felt it their duty to follow up the Inquiry by the "examination of such other persons, as they "judged best able to afford them information, as "to the facts in question." "We thought it," they say, "beyond all doubt, that in this course "of Inquiry many particulars must be learnt which "would be *necessarily conclusive* on the truth or "falsehood of these declarations. So many per-"sons must have been witnesses to the appear-"ances of an actual existing pregnancy, so many "circumstances must have been attendant upon "a real delivery, and difficulties so numerous and "insurmountable must have been involved in any

* Report, p. 6. ante. † See Appendix (A.) p. 49.

" attempt to account for the infant in question, as
" the child of another woman, if it had been in
" fact the child of the Princess; that we entertain-
" ed a full and confident expectation of arriving at
" complete proof, either in the affirmative, or
" negative on this part of the subject." " This
" expectation," they proceeded to state, " was not
" disappointed. We are happy to declare to
" your Majesty, our perfect conviction that there
" is no foundation whatever for believing that the
" child now with the Princess is the child of her
" Royal Highness, or that she was delivered of
" any child in the year 1802; nor has any thing
" appeared to us which would warrant the belief
" that she was pregnant in that year, or at any
" other period within the compass of our in-
" quiries." They then proceed to refer to the circumstantial evidence, by which they state that it was proved that the child was, beyond all doubt, born in Brownlow-street Hospital, on 11th July, 1802, of the body of Sophia Austin, and brought to my house in the month of November following. —" Neither should we," they add, " be more
" warranted in expressing any doubt respecting
" the alledged pregnancy of the Princess, as stated
" in the original declarations; a fact so fully con-
" tradicted, and by so many witnesses, to whom
" if true, it must, in various ways, have been
" known, that we cannot think it entitled to the
" smallest credit." Then, after stating that they have annexed the depositions from which they have

collected these opinions, they add—" We hum-
" bly offer to your Majesty our clear and unani-
" mous judgment upon them, formed on full de-
" liberation, and pronounced without hesitation,
" on the result of the whole Inquiry."

These two most important facts, therefore, which are charged against me, being so fully, and satisfactorily, disposed of, by the unanimous and clear judgment of the Commissioners; being so fully and completely disproved by the evidence which the Commissioners collected, I might, perhaps, in your Majesty's judgment appear well justified, in passing them by without any observation of mine.—But though the observations which I shall make shall be very few, yet I cannot forbear just dwelling upon this part of the case, for a few minutes; because, if I do not much deceive myself, upon every principle which can govern the human mind, in the investigation of the truth of any charge, the fate of this part of the accusation must have decisive weight upon the determination of the remainder. I therefore must beg to remark, that Sir John Douglas* swears to my having appeared, some time after our acquaintance had commenced, to be with child, and that one day I leaned on the sofa, and put my hand upon my stomach, and said, " Sir John, I shall never be Queen
" of England;" and he said, " not if you don't
" deserve," and I seemed angry at first.

* See Appendix (A) p. 6.

This conversation, I apprehend, if it has the least relation to the subject on which Sir John was examined, must be given for the purpose of insinuating that I made an allusion to my pregnancy, as if there was a sort of understanding between him and me upon the subject, and that he made me angry, by an expression which implied, that what I alluded to would forfeit my right to be Queen of England.—If this is not the meaning which Sir John intends to be annexed to this conversation, I am perfectly at a loss to conceive what he can intend to convey.—Whether at any time, when I may have felt myself unwell, I may have used the expression, which he here imputes to me, my memory will not enable me, with the least degree of certainty to state. The words themselves seem to me to be perfectly innocent; and the action of laying my hand upon my breast, if occasioned by any sense of internal pain at the moment, neither unnatural, nor, as it appears to me, in any way censurable. But that I could have used these words, intending to convey to Sir John Douglas the meaning, which I suppose him to insinuate, surpasses all human credulity to believe. I could not, however, forbear to notice this passage in Sir John's examination, because it must serve to demonstrate to your Majesty how words, in themselves most innocent, are endeavoured to be tortured, by being brought into the context with his opinion of my pregnancy, to convey a meaning most contrary to that, which I could by possibility

have intended to convey, but which it was necessary that he should impute to me, to give the better colour to this false accusation.

As to Sir John Douglas, however, when he swears to the appearances of my pregnancy, he possibly might be only mistaken. Not that mistake will excuse or diminish the guilt of so scandalous a falsehood upon oath. But for Lady Douglas there cannot be even such an excuse. Independent of all those extravagant confessions which she falsely represents me to have made, she states, upon her own observation and knowledge, that I was pregnant in the year 1802. Now, in the habits of intercourse and intimacy, with which I certainly did live with her, at that time, she could not be mistaken as to that fact. It is impossible, therefore, that in swearing positively to that fact, which is so positively disproved, she can fail to appear to your Majesty to be wilfully and deliberately forsworn.

As to the conversations which she asserts to have passed between us, I am well aware, that those, who prefer her word to mine, will not be satisfied to disbelieve her upon my bare denial; nor, perhaps, upon the improbability and extravagance of the supposed conversations themselves. But as to the facts of pregnancy and delivery, which are proved to be false, in the words of the Report, "by so many witnesses, to whom, if true, they "must in various ways have been known," no person living can doubt that the crime of adultery and treason, as proved by those facts, has been at-

tempted to be fixed upon me, by the deliberate and wilful falsehood of this my most forward accuser. And when it is once established, as it is, that my pregnancy and delivery are all Sir John and Lady Douglas's invention, I should imagine that my confessions of a pregnancy which never existed; my confession of a delivery which never took place; my confession of having suckled a child which I never bore, will hardly be believed upon the credit of her testimony. The credit of Lady Douglas, therefore, being thus destroyed, I trust Your Majesty will think that I ought to scorn to answer to any thing which her examination may contain, except so far as there may appear to be any additional and concurrent evidence to support it.

This brings me to the remaining part of the Report, which I read, I do assure your Majesty, with a degree of astonishment and surprise, that I know not how to express. How the Commissioners could, upon such evidence, from such witnesses, upon such an information, and in such an *ex parte* proceeding, before I had had the possibility of being heard, not only suffer themselves to form such an opinion, but to report it to Your Majesty, with all the weight and authority of their great names, I am perfectly at a loss to conceive. Their great official and judicial occupations, no doubt, prevented that full attention to the subject which it required. But I am not surely without just grounds

of complaint, if they proceeded to pronounce an opinion upon my character, without all that consideration and attention, which the importance of it to the peace of Your Majesty's mind, to the honour of your Royal Family, and the reputation of the Princess of Wales, seem, indispensably, to have demanded.

In the part of the Report already referred to, the particulars of the charge, exclusive of those two important facts, which have been so satisfactorily disposed of, are, as I have already observed, variously described by the Commissioners; as, "matters of great impropriety and indecency of behaviour;" as "other particulars in themselves extremely suspicious, and still more so, when connected with the assertions already mentioned;" and as "points of the same nature, though going to a much less extent." But they do not become the subject of particular attention in the Report, till after the Commissioners had concluded that part of it, in which they give so decisive an opinion against the truth of the charge upon the two material facts. They then proceed to state—

"That they cannot close their Report there," much as they could wish it; that besides the allegations of the pregnancy and delivery of the Princess, those declarations on the whole of which your Majesty had required their Inquiry and Report, contain *other particulars respecting the conduct of Her Royal Highness, such as must, especially considering her exalted rank and station, necessarily give occasion to*

very unfavourable interpretations. That from various depositions and proofs annexed to their Report, *particularly from the examination of Robert Bidgood, W. Cole, F. Lloyd, and Mrs. Lisle, several strong circumstances of this description*, have been positively sworn to, by witnesses, *who cannot in the judgment of the Commissioners, be suspected of any unfavourable bias*, and whose veracity in THIS RESPECT, they had *seen no ground to question*." They then state that "on the precise bearing and effect of the facts, thus appearing, it is not for them to decide, these they submit to your Majesty's wisdom. But they conceive it to be their duty to report on this part of the Inquiry, as distinctly as on the former facts; that as, on the one hand, the facts of pregnancy and delivery are, in their minds, satisfactorily disproved, so on the other hand they think, *that the circumstances to which they now refer, particularly those stated to have passed between Her Royal Highness and Captain Manby, must be credited until they shall receive some decisive contradiction, and if true, are justly entitled to the most serious consideration*."

Your Majesty will not fail to observe that the Commissioners have entered into the examination of *this part* of the case, and have reported upon it, not merely as evidence in confirmation of the charges of pregnancy and delivery which they have completely negatived and disposed of, but as containing substantive matters of charge, in itself.—That they consider it indeed as relating to points "of the same nature, but going to a much less

"extent," not therefore as constituting actual crime, but as amounting to "improprieties and "indecencies of behaviour, aggravated by the ex-"alted rank which I hold," as "occasioning unfa-"vourable interpretations," and as "entitled to "the most serious consideration." And when they also state that it is not for them to decide on their precise bearing and effect, I think I am justified in concluding that they could not class them under any known head of crime; as, in that case, upon their bearing and effect they would have been fully competent to have pronounced.

I have, to a degree, already stated to Your Majesty, the unprecedented hardship to which I conceive myself to have been exposed, by this *ex parte* Inquiry into the decorum of my private conduct. I have already stated the prejudice done to my character, by this recorded censure, from which I can have no appeal; and I press these considerations no further upon Your Majesty, at present, than to point out, in passing this part of the Report, the just foundations which it affords me for making the complaint.

Your Majesty will also, I am persuaded, not fail to remark the strange obscurity and reserve, the mysterious darkness, with which the Report here expresses itself; and every one must feel how this aggravates the severity and cruelty of the censure, by rendering it impossible distinctly and specifically to meet it. The Commissioners state indeed that some things are proved against me, which

must be credited till they shall receive a decisive contradiction, but what those things are they do not state. They are "particulars and circum-"stances which, especially considering my exalted "rank, must give occasion to the most unfavou-"rable interpretations. They are several strong "circumstances of this description," "they are, "if true, justly deserving of most serious consider-"ation," and they "must be credited till decid-"edly contradicted." But what are these circumstances? What are these deeds without a name? Was there ever a charge so framed? Was ever any one put to answer any charge, and decidedly to contradict it, or submit to have it credited against him, which was conceived in such terms, without the means of ascertaining what these things are, except as conjecture may enable me to surmise, to what parts of the examinations of the four witnesses on whom they particularly rely, they attach the importance and the weight which seem to them to justify these dark and ambiguous censures on my conduct? But such as they are, and whatever they may be, they must, your Majesty is told, be credited unless they are decidedly contradicted.

Circumstances, respecting Captain Manby, indeed are particularized; but referring to the depositions which apply to him, they contain much matter of opinion, of hearsay, of suspicion. Are these hearsays, are these opinions, are these suspicions, and conjectures of these witnesses, to be believed against me, unless decidedly contra-

dicted? How can I decidedly contradict another person's opinion? I may reason against its justice, but how can I contradict it? Or how can I decidedly contradict any thing which is not precisely specified, nor distinctly known to me?

Your Majesty will also observe that the Report states that it is not for the Commissioners to decide upon the bearing and effect of these facts; these are left for your Majesty's decision. But they add that if true, they are justly entitled to the most serious consideration. I cannot, Sire, but collect from these passages, an intimation that some further proceedings may be meditated. And perhaps, if I acted with perfect prudence, seeing how much resaon I have to fear, from the fabrications of falsehood, I ought to have waited till I knew what course, civil, or criminal, your Majesty might be advised to pursue before I offered any observations or answer. To this alternative however I am driven. I must either remain silent, and reserve my defence, leaving the imputation to operate most injuriously and fatally to my character; or I must, by entering into a defence against so extended a charge, expose myself with much greater hazard to any future attacks. But the fear of *possible* danger, to arise from the perverted interpretation of my answer, cannot induce me to acquiesce under the *certain* mischief of the unjust censure and judgment which stands against me, as it were, recorded in this Report. I shall therefore, at whatever hazard, proceed to submit to your Majesty, in whose justice I have

the most satisfactory reliance, my answer and my observations upon this part of the case.

And here, Sire, I cannot forbear again presuming to state to your Majesty, that it is not a little hard, that the Commissioners (who state in the beginning of their Report, that certain particulars, in themselves, extremely suspicious, were, in the judgment which they had formed upon them, before they entered into the particulars of the Inquiry, rendered still more suspicious from being connected with the assertion of pregnancy and delivery, should have made no observation upon the degree, in which that suspicion must be proportionably abated, when those assertions of pregnancy and delivery, have been completely falsified and disproved; that they should make no remark upon the fact, that all the witnesses, (with the exception of Mrs. Lisle,) on whom they specifically rely, were every one of them, brought forward by the principal informers, for the purpose of supporting the false statement of Lady Douglas; that they are the witnesses therefore of persons, whom, after the complete falsification of their charge, I am justified in describing as conspirators who have been detected, in supporting their conspiracy by their own perjury. And surely where a conspiracy, to fix a charge upon an individual, has been plainly detected, the witnesses of those who have been so detected in that conspiracy,—witnesses that are brought forward to support this false charge,—cannot stand otherwise than considerably affected

in their credit, by their connection with those who are detected in that conspiracy. But instead of pointing out this circumstance, as calling, at least for some degree of caution and reserve, in considering the testimony of these witnesses, the Report on the contrary, holds them up as worthy of particular credit, as witnesses, who, in the judgment of the Commissioners, cannot be suspected of unfavourable bias; whose veracity, in that respect, they have seen no ground to question; and who must be credited till they receive some decided contradiction.

Now, Sire, I feel the fullest confidence that I shall prove to your Majesty's most perfect satisfaction, that all of these witnesses (of course I still exclude Mrs. Lisle) are under the influence, and exhibit the symptoms of the most unfavourable bias;—that their veracity is in every respect to be doubted;—and that they cannot, by any candid and attentive mind, be deemed worthy of the least degree of credit, upon this charge, your Majesty will easily conceive, how great my surprise and astonishment must have been at this part of the Report. I am indeed a little at a loss to know, whether I understand the passage, which I have cited from the Report. "The witnesses "in the judgment of the Commissioners are not "to be suspected of unfavourable bias, and their "veracity *in that respect* they have seen no reason "to question." What is meant by their having seen no reason to suspect their veracity *in that respect?* Do they mean, what the qualification

seems to imply, that they have seen reason to question it in other respects? Is it meant to be insinuated that they saw reason to question their veracity, not in respect of an unfavourable bias, but of a bias in my favour? I cannot impute to them such an insinuation, because I am satisfied that the Commissioners would never have intended to insinuate any thing so directly contrary to the truth.

The witnesses specifically pointed out, as thus particularly deserving of credit, are *W. Cole, ||R. Bidgood, †F. Lloyd, and ‡Mrs. Lisle. With respect to Mrs. Lisle, I trust your Majesty will permit me to make my observations upon her examination, as distinctly and separately, as I possibly can, from the others. Because, as I ever had, and have now, as much as ever, the most perfect respect for Mrs. Lisle, I would avoid the possibility of having it imagined that such observations, as I shall be under the absolute necessity of making, upon the other witnesses, could be intended, in any degree, to be applied to her.

With respect to Cole, Bidgood, and Lloyd, they have all lived in their places, for a long time; they had lived with His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales before he married, and were

* Appendix (A) No. 5.
|| Appendix (A.) No. 4.
† Appendix (A.) No. 6.
‡ Apprndix (A.) No. 27.

appointed by him to situations about me; Cole and Lloyd immediately upon my marriage, and Bidgood very shortly afterwards. I know not whether from this circumstance they may consider themselves as not owing that undivided duty and regard to me, which servants of my own appointment, might possibly have felt; but if I knew nothing more of them than that they had consented to be voluntarily examined, for the purpose of supporting the statement of Lady Douglas on a charge so deeply affecting my honour, without communicating to me the fact of such examination, your Majesty would not, I am sure, be surprized, to find, that I saw, in that circumstance alone, sufficient to raise *some* suspicions of an unfavourable bias. But when I find Cole, particularly, submitting to this secret and voluntary examination against me, no less than *four* times, and when I found, during the pendency of this Inquiry before the Commissioners, that one of them, R. Bidgood, was so far connected, and in league, with Sir John and Lady Douglas, as to have communication with the latter, I thought I saw the proof of such decided hostility and confederacy against me, that I felt obliged to order the discontinuance of his attendance at my house till further orders. Of the real bias of their minds, however, with respect to me, your Majesty will be better able to judge from the consideration of their evidence.

The imputations which I collect to be considered as cast upon me, by these several witnesses, are too

great familiarity and intimacy with several gentlemen,—Sir Sidney Smith, Mr. Lawrence, Captain Manby, and I know not whether the same are not meant to be extended to Lord Hood, Mr. Chester, and Captain Moore.

With your Majesty's permission, therefore, I will examine the depositions of the witnesses, as they respect these several gentlemen, in their order, keeping the evidence, which is applicable to each case, as distinct from the others as I can.

And I will begin with those which respect Sir Sidney Smith, as he is the person first mentioned in the deposition of W. Cole.

W. Cole says,* "that Sir Sidney Smith first visited at Montague House in 1802; that he observed that the Princess was too familiar with Sir Sidney Smith. One day, he thinks in February, he (Cole) carried into the Blue Room to the Princess some sandwiches which she had ordered, and was surprised to see that Sir Sidney was there. He must have come in from the Park. If he had been let in from Blackheath he must have passed through the room in which he (Cole) was waiting. When he had left the sandwiches, he returned, after some time, into the room, and Sir Sidney Smith was sitting very close to the Princess on the sofa; He (Cole) looked at her Royal Highness, she caught his eye, and saw that

* Appendix (A.) No. 5.

he noticed the manner in which they were sitting together, they appeared both a little confused."

R. Bidgood says also, in his deposition* on the 6th of June, (for he was examined twice) "that it was early in 1802 that he first observed Sir Sidney Smith come to Montague House. He used to stay very late at night; he had seen him early in the morning there; about ten or eleven o'clock. He was at Sir John Douglas's and was in the habit as well as Sir John and Lady Douglas of dining or having luncheon, or supping there every day. He saw Sir Sidney Smith one day in 1802 in the Blue Room, about 11 o'clock in the morning, which was full two hours before they expected ever to see company. He asked the servants why they did not let him know Sir Sidney Smith was there; the footman told him that they had let no person in. There was a private door to the Park, by which he might have come in if he had a key to it, and have got into the Blue Room without any of the servants perceiving him. And in his second deposition, taken on the 3d of July, he says he lived at Montague House when Sir Sidney came. Her (the Princess's) manner with him appeared very familiar; she appeared very attentive to him, but he did not suspect any thing further. Mrs. Lisle says that the Princess at one time appeared to like Sir John and Lady Douglas. "I have seen Sir Sidney Smith there very late in the evening, but not alone with the Princess. I

* Appendix (A.) No. 4.

have no reason to suspect he had a key of the Park gate; I never heard of any body being found wandering about at Blackheath."

Fanny Loyd does not mention Sir Sidney Smith in her deposition.

Upon the whole of this evidence then, which is the whole that respects Sir Sidney Smith, in any of these depositions (except some particular passage in Cole's evidence which are so important as to require very particular and distinct statement) I would request your Majesty to understand that, with respect to the fact of Sir Sidney Smith's visiting frequently at Montague House, both with Sir John and Lady Douglas, and without them; with respect to his being frequently there, at luncheon, dinner, and supper; and staying with the rest of the company till twelve, one o'clock, or even sometimes later, if these are some of the facts "which must give occasion to unfavourable inter-"pretations, and must be credited till they are "contradicted; they are facts, which I never can contradict, for they are perfectly true. And I trust it will imply the confession of no guilt, to admit that Sir Sidney Smith's conversation, his account of the various and extraordinary events, and heroic achievements in which he had been concerned, amused and interested me; and the circumstance of his living so much with his friends, Sir John and Lady Douglas, in my neighbourhood on Blackheath, gave the opportunity of his increasing his acquaintance with me.

It happened also that about this time I fitted up, as your Majesty may have observed, one of the rooms in my house after the fashion of a Turkish Tent. Sir Sidney furnished me with a pattern for it, in a drawing of the Tent of Murat Bey, which he had brought over with him from Egypt. And he taught me how to draw Egyptian Arabesques, which were necessary for the ornaments of the cieling; this may have occasioned, while that room was fitting up, several visits, and possibly some, though I do not recollect them, as early in the morning as Mr. Bidgood mentions. I believe also that it has happened more than once, that, walking with my ladies in the Park, we have met Sir Sidney Smith, and that he has come in, with us, through the gate from the Park. My ladies may have gone up to take off their cloaks, or to dress, and have left me alone with him: and, at some one of these times, it may very possibly have happened that Mr. Cole, and Mr. Bidgood may have seen him, when he has not come through the waiting-room, nor been let it by any of the footmen. But I solemnly declare to your Majesty that I have not the least idea or belief that he ever had a key of the gate into the Park, or that he ever entered in or passed out, at that gate, except in company with myself and my ladies. As for the circumstance of my permitting him to be in the room alone with me; if suffering a man to be so alone is evidence of guilt, from whence the Commissioners can draw any unfavourable inference, I

must leave them to draw it. For I cannot deny that it has happened, and happened frequently; not only with Sir Sidney Smith, but with many, many others; gentlemen who have visited me; tradesmen who have come to receive my orders; masters whom I have had to instruct me, in painting, in music, in English, &c. that I have received them without any one being by. In short, I trust I am not confessing a crime, for unquestionably it is a truth, that I never had an idea that there was any thing wrong, or objectionable, in thus seeing men, in the morning, and I confidently believe your Majesty will see nothing in it, from which any guilt can be inferred. I feel certain that there is nothing immoral in the thing itself; and I have always understood, that it was perfectly customary and usual for ladies of the first rank, and the first character, in the country, to receive the visits of gentlemen in a morning, though they might be themselves alone at the time. But, if, in the opinions and fashions of this country, there should be more impropriety ascribed to it, than what it ever entered into my mind to conceive, I hope your Majesty, and every candid mind, will make allowance for the different notions which my foreign education and foreign habits may have given me.

But whatever character may belong to this practice, it is not a practice which commenced after my leaving Carlton House. While there, and from my first arrival in this country, I was accustomed, with the knowledge of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and without his ever having

hinted to me the slightest disapprobation, to receive lessons from various masters, for my amusement, and improvement; I was attended by them frequently, from twelve o'clock till five in the afternoon;—Mr. Atwood for music, Mr. Geffadiere for English, Mr. Tourfronelli for painting, Mr. Tutoye for imitating marble, Mr. Elwes for the harp. I saw them all alone; and indeed, if I were to see them at all, I could do no otherwise than see them alone. Miss Garth, who was then sub-governess to my daughter, lived, certainly, under the same roof with me, but she could not be spared from her duty and attendance on my daughter. I desired her sometimes to come down stairs, and read to me, during the time when I drew or painted, but my Lord Cholmondely informed me this could not be. I then requested that I might have one of my bed-chamber women to live constantly at Carlton House, that I might have her at call whenever I wanted her; but I was answered that it was not customary, that the attendants of the Royal Family should live with them in town; so that request could not be complied with. But, independent of this, I never conceived that it was offensive to the fashions and manners of the country to receive gentlemen who might call upon me in a morning, whether I had or had not any one with me; and it never occurred to me to think that there was either impropriety or indecorum in it, at that time, nor in continuing the practice at Montague House. But this has been confined to morning

visits, in no private apartments in my house, but in my drawing-room, where my ladies have at all times free access, and as they usually take their luncheon with me, except when they are engaged with visitors or pursuits of their own, it could but rarely occur that I could be left with any gentleman alone for any length of time, unless there were something, in the known and avowed business, which might occasion his waiting upon me, that would fully account for the circumstance.

I trust your Majesty will excuse the length at which I have dwelt upon this topic. I perceived, from the examinations, that it had been much inquired after, and I felt it necessary to represent it in its true light. And the candour of your Majesty's mind will, I am confident, suggest that those who are the least conscious of intending guilt, are the least suspicious of having it imputed to them; and therefore that they do not think it necessary to guard themselves at every turn, with witnesses to prove their innocence, fancying their character to be safe, as long as their conduct is innocent, and that guilt will not be imputed to them from actions quite indifferent.

The deposition however of Mr. Cole is not confined to my being alone with Sir Sidney Smith. The circumstances in which he observed us together he particularizes, and states his opinion. He introduces, indeed, the whole of the evidence by saying that I was too familiar with Sir Sidney Smith;

but as I trust I am not yet so far degraded as to have my character decided by the opiuion of Mr. Cole, I shall not comment upon that observation. He then proceeds to describe the scene which he observed on the day when he brought in the sandwiches, which I trust your Majesty did not fail to notice, *I had myself ordered to be brought in.* For there is an obvious insinuation that Sir Sidney must have come in through the Park, and that there was great impropriety in his being alone with me. And at least the witness's own story proves, whatever impropriety there might be, in this circumstance, that I was not conscious of it, nor meant to take advantage of his clandestine entry, from the Park, to conceal the fact from my servant's observation. For if I had had such consciousness, or such meaning, I never could have ordered sandwiches to have been brought in, or any other act to have been done, which must have brought myself under the notice of my servants, while I continued in a situation, which I thought improper, and wished to conceal. Any of the circumstances of this visit, to which this part of the deposition refers, my memory does not enable me in the least degree to particularize and recal. Mr. Cole may have seen me sitting on the same sofa with Sir Sidney Smith. Nay, I have no doubt he must have seen me, over and over again, not only with Sir Sidney Smith, but with other gentlemen, sitting upon the same sofa; and I trust your Majesty will feel it the hardest thing imaginable, that I should be called upon to

account what corner of a sofa I sat upon four years ago, and how close Sir Sidney Smith was sitting to me. I can only solemnly aver to your Majesty, that my conscience supplies me with the fullest means of confidently assuring you, that I never permitted Sir Sidney Smith to sit on any sofa with me in any manner, which, in my own judgment was in the slightest degree offensive to the strictest propriety and decorum. In the judgment of many persons, perhaps, a Princess of Wales should at no time forget the elevation of her rank, or descend in any degree to the familiarities and intimacies of private life. Under any circumstances, this would be a hard condition to be annexed to her situation. Under the circumstances, in which it has been my misfortune to have lost the necessary support to the dignity and station of a Princess of Wales, to have assumed and maintained an unbending dignity would have been impossible, and if possible, could hardly have been expected from me.

After these observations, Sire, I must now request your Majesty's attention to those written declarations which are mentioned in the Report, and which I shall never be able sufficiently to thank your Majesty for having condescended, in compliance with my earnest request, to order to be transmitted to me. From observations upon those declarations themselves, as well as upon comparing them with the depositions made before the Commissioners, your Majesty will see the strongest reason for discrediting the testimony of W. Cole,

as well as others of these witnesses whose credit stands in the opinion of the Commissioners so unimpeachable. They supply important observations, even with respect to that part of Mr. Cole's evidence which I am now considering, though in no degree equal in importance to those which I shall afterwards have occasion to notice.

Your Majesty will please to observe, that there are no less than four different examinations, or declarations, of Mr. Cole. They are dated on the 11th, 14th, and 30th of January, and on 23rd of February. In these four different declarations he twice mentions the circumstance of finding Sir Sidney Smith and myself on the sofa, and he mentions it not only in a different manner, at each of those times, but at both of them in a manner, which materially differs from his deposition before the Commissioners. In his declaration on the 11th of January* he says, that he found us in so *familiar* a posture, as to *alarm* him very much, which he expressed by a *start back* and a look at the gentleman.

In that dated on 22d of February,† however (being asked, I suppose as to that which he had dated to assert, of the familiar posture which had alarmed him so much,) he says, "there was *nothing particular* in our dress, *position* of legs, or arms, that was extraordinary; he thought it improper that a single gentleman should be sitting quite close to a married lady on the sofa, and from *that* situa-

* See Appendix (B.) p. 98.

† See Appendix (B.) p. 102.

tion; and *former observations* he thought the thing improper. In this second account, therefore, your Majesty perceives he was obliged to bring in his former observation to help out the statement, in order to account for his having been so shocked with what he saw, as to express his alarm by "starting back." But unfortunately he accounts for it, as it seems to me at least, by the very circumstance which would have induced him to have been less surprised, and consequently less startled by what he saw; for had his former observations been such as he insinuates, he would have been prepared the more to expect, and the less to be surprised at, what he pretends to have seen.

But your Majesty will observe, that in his deposition before the Commissioners* (recollecting perhaps how awkwardly he had accounted for his starting in his former declaration,) he drops his starting altogether. Instead of looking at the gentleman only, he looked at us both, that I caught his eye, and saw that he noticed the manner in which we were sitting, and instead of his own starting, or any description of the manner in which he exhibited his own feelings, we are represented as both appearing a *little confused*. Our *confusion* is a circumstance, which during his four declarations, which he made before the appointment of the Commissioners, it never once occurred to him to recollect. And now he does recollect it, we appeared, he says, "a little confused."—A little confused!--The Princess of Wales detected in a situa-

* Appendix (A.) p. 11.

ation such as to shock and alarm her servant, and so detected as to be sensible of her detection, and so conscious of the impropriety of the situation as to exhibit symptoms of confusion; would not her confusion have been extreme? would it have been so little as to have slipped the memory of the witness who observed it, during his first four declarations, and at last to be recalled to his recollection in such a manner as to be represented in the faint and feeble way, in which he here describes it.

What weight your Majesty will ascribe to these differences in the accounts given by this witness, I cannot pretend to say. But I am ready to confess that, probably, if there was nothing stronger of the same kind to be observed, in other parts of his testimony, the inference which would be drawn from them, would depend very much upon the opinion previously entertained of the witness. To me, who know many parts of his testimony to be absolutely false, and all the colouring given to it to be wholly from his own wicked and malicious invention, it appears plain, that these differences in his representations, are the unsteady, awkward, shuffles and prevarications of falsehood. To those, if there are any such, who from preconceived prejudices in his favour, or from any other circumstances, think that his veracity is free from all suspicion, satisfactory means of reconciling them may possibly occur. But before I have left Mr. Cole's examinations, your Majesty will find that they will have much more to account for, and much more to reconcile.

Mr. Cole's examination before the Commissioners goes on thus :—" *A short time before this, " one night about twelve o'clock, I saw a man go " into the house from the Park, wrapt up in a " great coat. I did not give any alarm, for the " impression on my mind was, that it was not " a thief." When I read this passage, Sire, I could hardly believe my eyes ; when I found such a fact left in this dark state, without any further explanation, or without a trace in the examination of any attempt to get it further explained. How he got this impression on his mind, that this was not a thief? Whom he believed it to be? What part of the house he saw him enter? If the drawing-room, or any part which I usually occupy, who was there at the time? Whether I was there? Whether alone, or with my Ladies? or with other company? Whether he told any body of the circumstance at the time? or how long after? Whom he told? Whether any inquiries were made in consequence? These, and a thousand other questions, with a view to have penetrated into the mystery of this strange story, and to have tried the credit of this witness, would, I should have thought, have occurred to any one; but certainly must have occurred to persons so experienced, and so able in the examination of facts, and the trying of the credit of witnesses, as the two learned Lords unquestionably are, whom Your Majesty took care

* Appendix (A.) No. 5.

to have introduced into this Commission. They never could have permitted these unexplained, and unsifted, hints and insinuations to have had the weight and effect of proof.—But, unfortunately for me, the duties, probably, of their respective situations prevented their attendance on the examination of this, and on the first examination of another most important witness, Mr. Robert Bidgood—and surely your Majesty will permit me here, without offence, to complain, that it is not a little hard, that, when your Majesty had shewn your anxiety to have legal accuracy, and legal experience assist on this examination, the two most important witnesses, in whose examinations there is more matter for unfavourable interpretation, than in all the rest put together, should have been examined without the benefit of this accuracy, and this experience. And I am the better justified in making this observation, if what has been suggested to me is correct; that, if it shall not be allowed that the power of administering an oath under this warrant or commission is questionable, yet it can hardly be doubted, that it is most questionable whether, according to the terms or meaning of the warrant or commission, as it constitutes no *quorum*, Lord Spencer and Lord Grenville could administer an oath, or act in the absence of the other Lords; and if they could not, Mr. Cole's falsehood must be out of the reach of punishment.

Returning then from this digression, will Your Majesty permit me to ask, whether I am to under-

stand this fact, respecting the man in a great coat, to be one of those which must necessarily give occasion to the most unfavourable interpretations? which must be credited till decidedly contradicted? and which if true, deserve the most serious consideration? The unfavourable interpretations which this fact may occasion, doubtless are, that this man was either Sir Sidney Smith, or some other *paramour*, who was admitted by me into my house in disguise at midnight, for the accomplishment of my wicked and adulterous purposes. And is it possible that your Majesty, is it possible that any candid mind can believe this fact, with the unfavourable interpretations which it occasions, on the relation of a servant, who for all that appears, mentions it for the first time, four years after the event took place; and who gives, himself, this picture of his honesty and fidelity to a master, whom he has served so long, that he, whose nerves are of so moral a frame, that he starts at seeing a single man sitting at mid-day, in an open drawing-room, on the same sofa, with a married woman, permitted this disguised midnight adulterer, to approach his master's bed, without taking any notice, without making any alarm, without offering any interruption. And why? because (as he expressly states) he did not believe him to be a thief: and because (as he plainly insinuates) he did believe him to be an adulterer.

But what makes the manner in which the Com-

missioners suffered this fact to remain so unexplained, the more extraordinary is this; Mr. Cole had in his original declaration of the* 11th of January, which was before the Commissioners, stated "that one night, about twelve o'clock, he saw a person wrapped up in a great coat, go across the Park into the gate at the Green House, and he verily believes it was Sir Sidney Smith." In his declaration then, (when he was not upon oath) he ventures to state, "that he verily believes it was Sir Sidney Smith." When he is upon his oath, in his depositions before the Commissioners, all that he ventures to swear is, "that he gave no alarm, because the impression upon his mind was, that it was not a thief!!" And the difference is most important. "The impression upon his mind was, that it was not a thief!!" I believe him, and the impression upon my mind too is, that he *knew* it was not a thief—That he knew who it was—and that he knew it was no other than *my watchman.* What incident it is that he alludes to, I cannot pretend to know. But this I know, that if it refers to any man with whose proceedings I have the least acquaintance or privity, it must have been my watchman; who, if he executes my orders, nightly, and often in the night goes his rounds, both inside and outside of my house. And this circumstance, which I should think would rather afford, to most minds, an inference that I was not preparing the

* Appendix, (B.) p. 98.

way of planning facilities for secret midnight assignations, has, in my conscience, I believe, (if there is one word of truth in any part of this story, and the whole of it is not pure invention) afforded the handle, and suggested the idea, to this honest, trusty man, this witness, "who cannot be suspected of any unfavourable bias," "whose veracity in that respect the Commissioners saw no ground to question," and "who must be credited till he received decided contradiction," suggested, I say, the idea of the dark and vile insinuation contained in this part of his testimony.

Whether I am right or wrong, however, in this conjecture, this appears to be evident, that his examination is so left, that supposing an indictment for perjury or false swearing, would lie against any witness, examined by the Commissioners, and supposing this examination had been taken before the whole four.—If Mr. Cole was indicted for perjury, in respect to this part of his deposition, the proof that he did see the watchman, would necessarily acquit him; would establish the truth of what he said, and rescue him from the punishment of perjury, though it would at the same time prove the falsehood and injustice of the inference, and the insinuation, for the establishment of which alone, the fact itself was sworn.

Mr. Cole chooses further to state, that he ascribes his removal from Montague House to London, to the discovery he had made, and the notice he had taken of the improper situation of Sir Sid-

ney Smith with me upon the sofa. To this I can oppose little more than my own assertions, as my motives can only be known to myself.—But Mr. Cole was a very disagreeable servant to me; he was a man, who, as I always conceived, had been educated above his station. He talked French, and was a musician, playing well on the violin.—By these qualifications he had got admitted occasionally, into better company, and this probably led to that forward and obtrusive conduct, which I thought extremely offensive and impertinent in a servant. I had long been extremely displeased with him; I had discovered, that when I went out he would come into my drawing-room, and play on my harpsichord, or sit there reading my books;---and, in short, there was a forwardness which would have led to my absolutely discharging him a long time before, if I had not made a sort of rule to myself, to forbear, as long as possible, from removing any servant who had been placed about me by his Royal Highness.---Before Mr. Cole lived with the Prince, he had lived with the Duke of Devonshire, and I had reason to believe that he carried to Devonshire House all the observations he could make at mine. For these various reasons, just before the Duke of Kent was about to go out of the kingdom, I requested his Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, who had been good enough to take the trouble of arranging many particulars in my establishment, to make the arrangements with respect to Mr. Cole; which was to leave him in town

to wait upon me only when I went to Carlton House, and not to come to Montague House except when specially required. This arrangement, it seems, offended him. It certainly deprived him of some perquisites which he had when living at Blackheath; but upon the whole, as it left him so much more of his time at his own disposal, I should not have thought it had been much to his prejudice. It seems however, that he did not like it: and I must leave this part of the case with this one observation more—That Your Majesty, I trust, will hardly believe, that, if Mr. Cole had, by any accident, discovered any improper conduct of mine, towards Sir Sidney Smith, or any one else, the way which I should have taken to suppress his information, to close his mouth, would have been by immediately adopting an arrangement in my family, with regard to him, which was either prejudicial or disagreeable to him: or that the way to remove him from the opportunity and the temptation of betraying my secret, whether through levity or design, in the quarter where it would be most fatal to me that it should be known, was by making an arrangement which, while all his resentment and anger were fresh and warm about him, would place him frequently, nay, almost daily, at Carlton House; would place him precisely at that place, from whence, unquestionably, it must have been my interest to have kept him as far removed as possible.

There is little or nothing in the examinations of

the other witnesses which is material for me to observe upon, as far as respects this part of the case. It appears from them indeed, what I have had no difficulty in admitting, and have observed upon before, that Sir Sidney Smith was frequently at Montague House---that they have known him to be alone with me in the morning, but that they never knew him alone with me in an evening, or staying later than my company or the Ladies---for what Mr. Stikeman says, with respect to his being alone with me in an evening, can only mean, and is only reconcileable with all the rest of the evidence on this part of the case, by its being understood to mean alone, in respect of other company, but not alone, in the absence of my Ladies. The deposition indeed of my servant, S. Roberts, is thus far material upon that point, that it exhibits Mr. Cole, not less than three years ago, endeavouring to collect evidence upon these points to my prejudice. For Your Majesty will find that he says, " I recollect Mr. Cole* once asking me, I " think three years ago, whether there were any " favourites in the family. I remember saying " that Captain Manby and Sir Sidney Smith were " frequently at Blackheath, and dined there " oftener than other persons." He then proceeds---" I never knew Sir Sidney Smith stay " later than the Ladies ; I cannot exactly say at " what time he went, but I never remember his " staying alone with the Princess."

As to what is contained in the written declara-

* See Appendix (A) No. 8.

tions of Mr. and Mrs. Lampert, the old servants of Sir John and Lady Douglas (as from some circumstance or other respecting, I conceive, either their credit or their supposed importance), the Commissioners have not thought proper to examine them upon their oaths,* I do not imagine Your Majesty would expect that I should take any notice of them. And as to what is deposed by my Lady Douglas, if your Majesty will observe the gross and horrid indecencies with which she ushers in, and states my confessions to her, of my asserted criminal intercourse with Sir Sidney Smith, Your Majesty, I am confident, will not be surprised that I do not descend to my particular observations on her deposition.—One, and one only observation, will I make, which, however, could not have escaped Your Majesty, if I had omitted it.—That your Majesty will have an excellent portraiture of the true female delicacy and purity of my Lady Douglas's mind and character, when you will observe that she seems wholly insensible to what a sink of infamy she degrades herself by her testimony against me. It is not only that it appears, from her statement, that she was contented to live, in familiarity and apparent friendship with me, after the confession which I made of my adultery (for by the indulgence and liberality, as it is called, of modern manners, the company of adultresses has ceased to reflect that discredit upon the

* For the same reason they are not printed in Appendix B.

characters of other women who admit to their society, which the best interests of female virtue may perhaps require.) But she was contented to live in familiarity with a woman, who, if Lady Douglas's evidence of me is true, was a most low, vulgar, and profligate disgrace to her sex. The grossness of whose ideas and conversation, would add infamy to the lowest, most vulgar, and most infamous prostitute. It is not, however, upon this circumstance, that I rest assured no reliance can be placed on Lady Douglas's testimony; but after what is proved, with regard to her evidence respecting my pregnancy and delivery in 1802, I am certain that any observations upon her testimony, or her veracity must be flung away.

Your Majesty has therefore now before you the state of the charge against me, as far as it respects Sir Sidney Smith. And this is, as I understand the Report, one of the charges *which, with its unfavourable interpretations, must, in the opinion of the Commissioners, be credited till decidedly contradicted.*

As to the facts of frequent visiting on terms of great intimacy, as I have said before, they cannot be contradicted at all. How inferences and unfavourable interpretations are to be decidedly contradicted, I wish the Commissioners had been so good as to explain. I know of no possible way but by the declarations of myself and Sir Sidney Smith. Yet we being the supposed guilty parties, our denial, probably, will be thought of no great

weight. As to my own, however, I tender it to your Majesty, in the most solemn manner, and if I knew what fact it was that I ought to contradict, to clear my innocence, I would precisely address myself to that fact, as I am confident, my conscience would enable me to do, to any, from which a criminal or an unbecomin inference could be drawn. I am sure, however, your Majesty will feel for the humiliated and degraded situation, to which this report has reduced your Daughter-in-law, the Princess of Wales; when you see her reduced to the necessity of either risking the danger, that the most unfavourable interpretations should be credited; or else of stating, as I am now degraded to the necessity of stating, that not only no adulterous, or criminal, but no indecent or improper intercourse whatever, ever subsisted between Sir Sidney Smith and myself, or any thing which I should have objected that all the world should have seen. I say degraded to the necessity of stating it; for your Majesty must feel that a woman's character is degraded when it is put upon her to make such statement, at the peril of the contrary being credited unless she decidedly contradicts it. Sir Sidney Smith's absence from the country prevents my calling upon him to attest the same truth. But I trust when your Majesty shall find, as you will find, that my declaration to a similar effect, with respect to the other gentle-

men referred to in this Report, is confirmed by their denial, that your Majesty will think that in a case, where nothing but my own word, can be adduced, my own word alone may be opposed to whatever little remains of credit or weight may, after all the above observations, be supposed yet to belong to Mr. Cole, to his inferences, his insinuations, or his facts. Not indeed that I have yet finished my observations on Mr. Cole's credit; but I must reserve the remainder, till I consider his evidence with respect to Mr. Lawrence; and till I have occasion to comment upon the testimony of Fanny Lloyd. Then, indeed I shall be under the necessity of exhibiting to your Majesty these witnesses, Fanny Lloyd and Mr. Cole, (both of whom are represented as so unbiassed, and so credible) in flat, decisive, and irreconcileable, contradiction to each other.

The next person, with whom my improper intimacy is insinuated, is Mr. Lawrence the painter.

The principal witness on this charge is also Mr. Cole, Mr. R. Bidgood says nothing about him, Fanny Lloyd says nothing about him; and all that Mrs. Lisle says is perfectly true, and I am neither able, nor feel interested, to contradict it. "That she remembers my sitting to Mr. Lawrence for my picture at Blackheath; and in London; that she has left me at his house in town with him, but she thinks Mrs. Fitzgerald was with us; and that she thinks I sat alone with him at Blackheath." But Mr. Cole speaks of Mr. Lawrence in a manner that

calls for particular observation. He says "Mr. Lawrence the painter used to go to Montague House about the latter end of 1801, when he was painting the Princess, and he has slept in the house two or three nights together. I have often seen him alone with the Princess at 11 or 12 o'clock at night. He has been there as late as one and two o'clock in the morning. One night I saw *him with the Princess in the Blue Room, after the ladies had retired. Some time afterwards, when I supposed he had gone to his room, I went to see that all was safe, and I found the Blue Room door locked, and heard a whispering in it; and I went away.*" Here, again, your Majesty observes, that Mr. Cole deals his deadliest blows against my character by insinuation. And here, again, his insinuation is left unsifted and unexplained. I here understand him to insinuate that, though he supposed Mr. Lawrence to have gone to his room, he was still where he had said he last left him; and that the locked door prevented him from seeing me and Mr. Lawrence alone together, whose whispering, however, he notwithstanding overheard.

Before, Sire, I come to my own explanation of the fact of Mr. Lawrence's sleeping at Montague House, I must again refer to Mr. Cole's original declarations. I must again examine Mr. Cole, against Mr. Cole: which I cannot help lamenting

* Appendix A. No. 5.

it does not seem to have occurred to others to have done; as I am persuaded if it had, his prevarications, and his falsehood, could never have escaped them. They would then have been able to have traced, as your Majesty will now do, through my observations, by what degrees he hardened himself up to the infamy (for I can use no other expression) of stating this fact, by which he means to insinuate that he heard me and Mr. Lawrence, locked up in this Blue Room, whispering together, and alone. I am sorry to be obliged to drag your Majesty through so long a detail; but I am confident your Majesty's goodness, and love of justice, will excuse it, as it is essential to the vindication of my character, as well as to the illustration of Mr. Cole's.

Mr. Cole's examination, as contained in his first written declaration of the 11th of January, has nothing of this. I mean not to say that it has nothing concerning Mr. Lawrence, for it has much, which is calculated to occasion unfavourable interpretations, and given with a view to that object. But that circumstance, as I submit to your Majesty, increases the weight of my observation. Had there been nothing in his first declaration about Mr. Lawrence at all, it might have been imagined that perhaps Mr. Lawrence escaped his recollection altogether; or that his declaration had been solely directed to other persons; but as it does contain observations respecting Mr. Lawrence, but nothing of a locked door, or the whispering within it;—how he happened at that time not to recollect, or if he recollected

not to mention, so very striking and remarkable a circumstance is not, I should imagine, very satisfactorily to be explained. His statement in that* first declaration stands thus, "In 1801, Lawrence "the painter was at Montague House, for four "or five days at a time, painting the Princess's "picture. That he was frequently alone late in "the night with the Princess, and much suspicion "was entertained of him." Mr. Cole's next †declaration, at least the next which appears among the written declarations, was taken on the 14th of January; it does not mention Mr. Lawrence's name, but it has this passage. "When Mr. Cole found the drawing-room, which led to the staircase to the Princess's apartments, locked (which your Majesty knows is the same which the witnesses call the Blue Room) he does not know whether any person was with her; but it appeared odd to him, as he had formed some suspicions." The striking and important observation on this passage is, that when he first talks of the door of the drawing-room being locked, so far from his mentioning any thing of *whispering being overheard,* he expressly says, that he did not know that any body was with me. The passage is likewise deserving your Majesty's most serious consideration on another ground. For it is one of those which shews that Mr. Cole, though we have four separate declarations made by him, has certainly made other statements which have not

* See Appendix (B.) p. 100. † Appendix (B.) p. 100.

been transmitted to your Majesty; for it evidently refers to something, which he had said before, of having found the drawing-room door locked, and no trace of such a statement, is discoverable in the previous examination of Mr. Cole, as I have received it, and I have no doubt that, in obedience to your Majesty's commands, I have at length been furnished with the whole. I don't know, indeed, that it should be matter of complaint from me, that your Majesty has not been furnished with all the statements of Mr. Cole, because from the sample I see of them, I cannot suppose that any of them could have furnished any thing favourable to me, except indeed that they might have furnished me with fresh means of contradicting him by himself.

But your Majesty will see that there have been other statements not communicated; a circumstance of which both your Majesty and I, have reason to complain. But it may be out of its place further to notice that fact at present.

To return therefore to Mr. Cole;—in his third* declaration dated the 30th of January, there is not a word about Mr. Lawrence. In his fourth and last, § which is dated on the 23d of February he says "the person who was alone with the lady at "late hours of the night (twelve and one o'clock,) "and whom he left sitting up after he went to bed, "was Mr. Lawrence, which happened two differ-"ent nights." Here is likewise another trace of

* Appendix (B.) 102. § Appendix (B.) p. 102.

a former statement which is not given; for no such person is mentioned before in any that I have been furnished with.

Your Majesty then here observes that, after having given evidence in two of his declarations, respecting Mr. Lawr ence by name, in which he mentions nothing of locked doors, and after having, in another declaration, given an account of a locked door, but expressly stated that he knew not whether any one was with me within it, and said nothing about whispering being overheard, but, impliedly, at least, negatived it;—in the deposition before the Commissioners, he puts all these things together, and has the hardihood to add to thom that remarkable circumstance, which could not have escaped his recollection, at the first, if it had been true, "of his "having on the same night in which he found me "and Mr. Lawrence alone, after the ladies were "gone to bed, come again to the room when he "thought Mr. Lawrence must have been retired, "and found the door locked and heard the whis-"pering;" and then again he gives another instance of his honesty, and upon the same principle on which he took no notice of the man in the g-eat coat, he finds the door locked, hears the whispering, and then he silently and contentedly retires.

And this witness, who thus not only varies in his testimony, but contradicts himself in such important particulars, is one of those who cannot be suspected of unfavourable bias, and whose veracity is

not to be questioned, and whose evidence must be credited till decidedly contradicted.

These observations might probably be deemed sufficient, upon Mr. Cole's deposition, as far as it respects Mr. Lawrence ; but I cannot be satisfied without explaining to your Majesty, all the truth, and the particulars, respecting Mr. Lawrence, which I recollect.

What I recollect then is as follows. He began a large picture of me, and of my daughter, towards the latter end of the year 1800, or the beginning of 1801. Miss Garth and Miss Hayman were in the house with me at the time. The picture was painted at Montague House. Mr. Lawrence mentioned to Miss Hayman his wish to be permitted to remain some few nights in the house, that by rising early he might begin painting on the picture, before Princess Charlotte (whose residence being at that time at Shooter's Hill was enabled to come early,) or myself, came to sit. It was a similar request to that which had been made by Sir William Beechy, when he painted my picture. And I was sensible of no impropriety when I granted the request to either of them. Mr. Lawrence occupied the same room which had been occupied by Sir William Beechy ;—it was at the other end of the house from my apartment.

At that time Mr. Lawrence did not dine with me ; his dinner was served in his own room.—After dinner he came down to the room where I and my Ladies generally sat in an evening—sometimes

there was music, in which he joined, and sometimes he read poetry. Parts of Shakespeare's plays I particularly remember, from his reading them very well; and sometimes he played chess with me. It frequently may have happened that it was one or two o'clock before I dismissed Mr. Lawrence and my Ladies. They, together with Mr. Lawrence, went out of the same door, up the same stair-case, and at the same time. According to my own recollection I should have said that in no one instance, they had left Mr. Lawrence behind them, alone with me.—But I suppose it did happen once for a short time, since Mr. Lawrence so recollects it, as your Majesty will perceive from his deposition, which I annex. He staid in my house two or three nights together; but how many nights in the whole, I do not recollect. The picture left my house by April, 1801, and Mr. Lawrence never slept in my house afterwards. That picture now belongs to Lady Townsend. He has since completed another picture of me; and about a year and a half ago, he began another, which remains at present unfinished. I believe it is near a twelve month since I last sat to him.

Mr. Lawrence lives upon a footing of the greatest intimacy with the neighbouring families of Mr. Lock and Mr. Angerstein; and I have asked him sometimes to dine with me to meet them. While I was sitting to him at my own house, I have no doubt I must often have sat to him alone; as the

necessity for the precaution of having an attendant as a witness to protect my honour from suspicion, certainly never occurred to me. And upon the same principle, I do not doubt that I may have sometimes continued in conversation with him after he had finished painting. But when sitting in his own house, I have always been attended with one of my ladies.—And indeed nothing in the examinations state the contrary. One part of Mrs. Lisle's examination seems as if she had a question put to her, upon the supposition that I had been left alone with Mr. Lawrence at his own house; to which she answers, that she indeed had left me there, but that she *thinks* she left Mrs. Fitzgerald with me.

If an inference of an unfavourable nature could have been drawn from my having been left there alone:—was it, Sire, taking all that care which might be wished, to guard against such an inference on the part of the Commissioners, when they omitted to send for Mrs. Fitzgerald to ascertain what Mrs. Lisle may have left in doubt. The Commissioners, I give them the fullest credit were satisfied, that Mrs. Lisle thought correctly upon this fact, and that Mrs. Fitzgerald, if she had been sent for again, would so have proved it, and therefore that it would have been troubling her to no purpose. But this it is, of which I conceive myself to have most reason to complain; that the examinations in several instances have not been followed up so as to remove unfavourable impressions.

I cannot but feel satisfied that the commissioners would have been glad to have been warranted in negativing all criminality, and all suspicion on his part of the charge, as completely and honourably as they have done on the principal charges of pregnancy and delivery. They traced that part of the charge with ability, sagacity, diligence, and perseverance; and the result was complete satisfaction of my innocence; complete detection of the falsehood of my accusers. Encouraged by their success in that part of their inquiry, I lament that they did not, (as they thought proper to enter into the other part of it at all,) with similar industry pursue it. If they had, I am confident they would have pursued it with the same success; but though they had convicted Sir John and Lady Douglas of falsehood, they seem to have thought it *impossible to suspect* of the same falsehood, any other of the witnesses, though produced by Sir John and Lady Douglas. The most obvious means therefore of trying their credit, by comparing their evidence with what they had said before, seems to me to have been omitted. Many facts are left upon surmise only and insinuation; obvious means of getting further information on doubtful and suspicious circumstances are not resorted to; and, as if the important matter of the inquiry (on which a satisfactory conclusion had been formed) was all that required any very attentive or accurate consideration; the remainder of it was pursued in a manner which, as it seems to me, can only be accounted for by the pressure of what

may have been deemed more important duties—and of this I should have made but little complaint, if this inquiry, where it is imperfect had not been followed by a Report, which the most accurate only could have justified, and which such an accurate inquiry, I am confident, never could have produced.

If any credit was given to Mr. Cole's story of the locked door, and the whispering; and to Mr. Lawrence having been left with me so frequently of a night when my Ladies had left us, why were not all my ladies examined? why were not all my servants examined as to their knowledge of that fact? And if they had been so examined, and had contradicted the fact so sworn to by Mr. Cole, as they must have done, had they been examined to it; that alone would have been sufficient to have removed his name from the list of unsuspected and unquestionable witnesses, and relieved me from much of the suspicion, which his evidence, till it was examined, was calculated to have raised in your Majesty's mind.—And to close this statement, and these observations and in addition to them,—I most solemnly assert to your Majesty, that Mr. Lawrence, neither at his own house, nor at mine, nor any where else, ever was for one moment by night or by day, in the same room with me when the door of it was locked; that he never was in my company of an evening alone, except the momentary conversation which Mr. Lawrence speaks to, may be thought an exception; and that nothing ever

passed between him and me which all the world might not have witnessed. And, Sire, I have subjoined a deposition to the same effect from Mr. Lawrence.

To satisfy myself, therefore, and your Majesty, I have shewn, I trust, by unanswerable observations and arguments, that there is no colour for crediting Mr. Cole, or, consequently, any part of this charge, which rests solely on his evidence. But to satisfy the requisition of the Commissioners, I have brought my pride to submit, (though not without great pain, I can assure your Majesty) to add the only contradictions which I conceive can be given, those of Mr. Lawrence and myself.

The next person with whom these examinations charge my improper familiarity, and with regard to which the Report represents the evidence as particularly strong, is Captain Manby. With respect to him, Mr. Cole's examination is silent.—But the evidence, on which the Commissioners rely on this part of the case, is Mr. Bidgood's, Miss Fanny Lloyd's, and Mrs. Lisle's.—It respects my conduct at three different places; at Montague House, Southend, and at Ramsgate. I shall preserve the facts and my observations more distinct, if I consider the evidence, as applicable to these three places, separately, and in its order; and I prefer this mode of treating it, as it will enable me to consider the evidence of Mrs. Lisle in the first place, and consequently put it out of the reach of the harsher observations, which I may be under the necessity of

making, upon the testimony of the other two. For though Mrs. Lisle, indeed, speaks to having seen Captain Manby at East Cliff, in August, 1803, to the best of her remembrance it was only once; She speaks to his meeting her at Deal, in the same season; that he landed there with some boys whom I took on charity, and who were under his care; yet she speaks of nothing there that can require a single observation from me.--*The material parts of her evidence respect her seeing him at Blackheath, the Christmas before she had seen him at East Cliff. She says, it was the Christmas after Mr. Austin's child came, consequently the Christmas 1802-3.—He used to come to dine there, she says—he always went away in her presence, and she had no reason to think he staid after the Ladies retired. He lodged on the Heath at that time; his ship was fitting up at Deptford; he came to dinner three or four times a week or more.--She supposes he might be alone with the Princess, but that she was in the habit of seeing Gentlemen and Tradesmen without her being present. She (Mrs. Lisle) has seen him at luncheon and dinner both. The boys (two boys) came with him two or three times, but not to dinner. Captain Manby always sat next the Princess at dinner. The constant company were Mrs. and Miss Fitzgerald, and herself--all retired with the Princess, and sat in the same room. Captain Manby generally retired

*Appendix (A.) No. 27.

about eleven ; and sat with us all till then. Captain Manby and the Princess used, when we were together, to be speaking together separately, conversing separately, but not in a room alone. He was a person with whom the Princess appeared to have greater pleasure in talking than with her Ladies. Her Royal Highness behaved to him ONLY *as any woman would who likes flirting. She (Mrs. Lisle) would not have thought any married woman would have behaved properly, who behaved as Her Royal Highness did to Captain Manby. She can't say whether the Princess was attached to Captain Manby, only that it was a flirting conduct.* She never saw any gallantries, as kissing her hand, or the like."

I have cautiously stated the whole of Mrs. Lisle's evidence upon this part of the case; and I am sure Your Majesty in reading it, will not fail to keep the facts, which Mrs. Lisle speaks to, separate from the opinion, or judgment, which she forms upon them. I mean not to speak disrespectfully or slightingly, of Mrs. Lisle's opinion ; or express myself as in any degree indifferent to it. But whatever there was, which she observed in my conduct, that did not become a married woman, that " was ONLY like a woman who liked flirting," and " ONLY a flirting conduct," I am convinced your Majesty must be satisfied that it must have been far distant from affording any evidence of crime, of vice, or of indecency, as it passed openly

in the company of my Ladies, of whom Mrs. Lisle herself was one.

The facts she states are, that Captain Manby came very frequently to my house ; that he dined there three or four times a week in the latter end of the year 1802 ; that he sat next to me at dinner ; and that my conversation after dinner, in the evening, used to be with Captain Manby, separate from my Ladies. These are the facts : and is it upon them that my character, I will not say, is to be taken away, but is to be *affected?*

Captain Manby had, in the autumn of the same year, been introduced to me by Lady Townsend, when I was upon a visit to her at Rainham. I think he came there only the day before I left it. He was a naval officer, as I understood, and as I still believe, of great merit. What little expence, in the way of charity, I am able to afford, I am best pleased to dedicate to the education of the children of poor, but honest persons; and I most generally bring them up to the service of the Navy. I had at that time two boys at school, whom I thought of an age fit to be put to sea. I desired Lady Townshend to prevail upon Captain Manby to take them. He consented to it, and of course I was obliged to him.

About this time, or shortly afterwards, he was appointed to the Africaine, a ship which was fitting up at Deptford. To be near his ship, as I understood and believe, he took lodgings at Blackheath ; and as to the mere fact of his being so frequently

at my house,---his intimacy and friendship with Lord and Lady Townshend, which of itself was assurance to me of his respectability and character---my pleasure in shewing my respect to them, by notice and attention to a friend of theirs,---his undertaking the care of my charity boys, --and his accidental residence at Blackheath, will, I should trust, not unreasonably account for it. I have a similar account likewise to give of paying for the linen furniture, with which his cabin was furnished. Wishing to make him some return for his trouble with the boys, I desired that I might choose the pattern of his furniture. I not only chose it but had it sent to him, and paid the bill; finding, however, that it did not come to more than about twenty pounds, I thought it a shabby present, and therefore added some trifling present of plate. So I have frequently done, and I hope without offence may be permitted to do again to any Captain, on whom I impose such trouble. Sir Samuel Hood has now two of my charity boys with him; and I have presented him with a silver Epergne. I should be ashamed to notice such things, but your Majesty perceives, that they are made the subject of Inquiry from Mrs. Fitzgerald, and Mr. Stikeman, and I was desirous that they should not appear to be particular in the case of Captain Manby.

But to return to Mrs. Lisle's examination. Mrs. Lisle says that Captain Manby, when he

dined with me, sat next to me at dinner. Before any inference is drawn from that fact, I am sure your Majesty will observe that, in the next line of Mrs. Lisle's examination, she says "that the constant company was Mrs. and Miss Fitzgerald, and herself, Mrs. Lisle." The only gentleman, the only person of the whole party who was not of my own family, was Captain Manby; and his sitting next to me, under such circumstances, I should apprehend could not possibly afford any inference of any kind. In the evening we were never alone. The whole company sat together; nay even as to his being with me alone of a morning, Mrs. Lisle seems to know nothing of the fact, but from a conjecture founded upon her knowledge of my known usual habit, with respect to seeing gentlemen who might call upon me. And the very foundation of her conjecture demonstrates that this circumstance can be no evidence of any thing particular with regard to Captain Manby.

As to my conversing with Captain Manby separately, I do not understand Mrs. Lisle as meaning to speak to the state of the conversation uninterruptedly, during the whole of any of the several evenings when Captain Manby was with me; if I did so understand her, I should certainly most confidently assert, that she was not correct. That in the course of the evening, as the ladies were working, reading, or otherwise amusing themselves, the conversation was sometimes more and sometimes less general; and that they sometimes took more, sometimes

less part in it ;—that frequently it was between Captain Manby and myself alone ; and that, when we were all together, we two might frequently be the only persons not otherwise engaged, and therefore be justly said to be speaking together separately. Besides Captain Manby has been round the world with Captain Vancovre. I have looked over prints in books of voyages with him ; he has explained them to me ; the ladies may or may not have been looking over them at the same time ; they may have been engaged with their own amusements. Here again, we may be said to have been conversing separately, and consequently that Mrs. Lisle, in this sense, is perfectly justified in saying that " I used to converse separately with Captain Manby," I have not the least difficulty in admitting. But have I not again reason to complain that this expression of Mrs. Lisle's was not more sifted, but left in a manner calculated to raise an impression that this separate conversation was studiously sought for, was constant, uniform, and uninterrupted, though it by no means asserts any such thing? But whether I used *always* so to converse with him ; or *generally*, or only *sometimes*, or for what proportion of the evening I used to be so engaged, is left unasked and unexplained. Have I not likewise just reason to complain, that though Mrs. Lisle states, that Mrs. Fitzgerald and Miss Fitzgerald were always of the party, they are not both examined to these circumstances? But Miss Fitzgerald is not examined at all ; and

Mrs. Fitzgerald, though examined, and examined too with respect to Captain Manby, does not appear to have had a single question put to her with respect to any thing which passed concerning him at Montague House. May I not therefore complain that the examination, leaving the generality of Mrs. Lisle's expression unexplained by herself; and the scenes to which it relates unexamined into, by calling the other persons who were present, is leaving it precisely in that state, which is better calculated to raise a suspicion, than to ascertain the truth?

But I am persuaded that the unfavourable impression which is most likely to be made by Mrs. Lisle's examination, is not by her evidence to the facts, but by her opinion upon them. "I appeared," she says, "to like the conversation of Captain Manby better than that of my ladies. I behaved to him *only* as a woman who likes flirting; my conduct was unbecoming a married woman; she cannot say whether I was attached to Captain Manby or not; it was *only* a flirting conduct."—Now, Sire, I must here again most seriously complain that the Commissioners should have called for, or received, and much more reported, in this manner, the *opinion* and *judgment* of Mrs. Lisle upon my conduct. Your Majesty's Warrant purports to authorize them to collect the evidence, and not the opinion of others; and to report it, with their own judgment surely, and not Mrs. Lisle's. Mrs. Lisle's judgment was formed upon those facts which she stated to the

Commissioners, or upon other facts. If upon those she stated, the Commissioners, and your Majesty, are as well able to form the judgment upon them as she was. If upon other facts, the Commissioners should have heard what those other facts were, and upon them have formed and reported their judgment.

I am aware, indeed, that if I were to argue that the facts which Mrs. Lisle states, afford the explanation of what she means by "only flirting "conduct," and by "behaviour unbecoming a married woman," namely, that it consisted in having the same gentlemen to dine with me three or four times a week;—letting him sit next me at dinner, when there were no other strangers in company;—conversing with him separately, and appearing to prefer his conversation to that of the ladies,—it would be observed probably, that this was not all; that there was always a certain indescribable something in *manner*, which gave the character to conduct, and must have entered mainly into such a judgment as Mrs. Lisle has here pronounced.

To a certain extent I should be obliged to agree to this; but if I am to have any prejudice from this observation; if it is to give a weight and authority to Mrs. Lisle's judgment, let me have the advantage of it also. If it justifies the conclusion that Mrs. Lisle's censure upon my conduct is right, it requires also that equal credit should be given to the qualification, the limit, and the re-

striction, which she herself puts upon that censure.

Mrs. Lisle, seeing all the facts which she relates, and observing much of manner, which perhaps she could not describe, limits the expression "flirting conduct" by calling it "only flirting," and says (upon having the question asked to her, no doubt, whether from the whole she could collect that I was attached to Captain Manby) says "she could not say whether I was attached to him, my conduct was not of a nature that proved any attachment to him, it was only a flirting conduct." Unjust therefore, as I think it, that any such question should have been put to Mrs. Lisle, or that her judgment should have been taken at all; yet what I fear from it, as pressing with peculiar hardship upon me, is, that though it is Mrs. Lisle's final, and ultimate, judgment upon the whole of my conduct, yet, when delivered to the Commissioners and your Majesty, it becomes evidence, which, connected with all the facts on which Mrs. Lisle had formed it, may lead to still further and more unfavorable conclusions, in the minds of those who are afterwards to judge upon it;—that her judgment will be the foundation of other judgments against me, much severer than her own; and that though she evidently limits her opinion, and by saying "ONLY flirting" impliedly negatives it as affording any indication of any thing more improper, while she proceeds *expressly* to negative it as affording any proof of attachment; yet it

may be thought by others, to justify their considering it as a species of conduct, which shewed an attachment to the man to whom it was addressed; which in a married woman was criminal and wrong.

What Mrs. Lisle exactly means by *only flirting* conduct—what degree of impropriety of conduct she would describe by it, it is extremely difficult, with any precision, to ascertain. How many women are there, most virtuous, most truly modest, incapable of any thing impure, vicious, or immoral, in deed or thought, who, from greater vivacity of spirits, from less natural reserve, from that want of caution, which the very consciousness of innocence betrays them into, conduct themselves in a manner, which a woman of a graver character, of more reserved disposition, but not with one particle of superior virtue, thinks too incautious, too unreserved, too familiar; and which, if forced upon her oath to give her opinion upon it, she might feel herself, as an honest woman, bound to say in that opinion, was flirting?

But whatever sense Mrs. Lisle annexes to the word "flirting" it is evident, as I said before, that she cannot mean any thing criminal, vicious, or indecent, or any thing with the least shade of deeper impropriety than what is necessarily expressed in the word "flirting." She never would have added, as she does in both instances, that it was ONLY flirting; if she had thought it of a quality to be recorded in a formal Report, amongst circum-

stances which *must* occasion the *most* unfavourable interpretations, and which deserved the most serious consideration of your Majesty. To use it so, I am sure your Majesty must see is to press it far beyond the meaning which she would assign to it herself.

And as I have admitted that there may be much indescribable in the manner of doing any thing, so it must be admitted to me that there is much indescribable, and most material also in the manner of saying any thing, and in the accent with which it is said. The whole context serves much to explain it; and if it is in answer to a question, the words of that question, the manner and the accent in which it is asked, are also most material to understand the precise meaning, which the expressions are intended to convey; and I must lament therefore extremely, if my character is to be affected by the opinion of any witness, that the question by which that opinion was drawn from her, were not given too, as well as her answers, and if this inquiry had been prosecuted before your Majesty's Privy Council, the more solemn and usual course of proceeding there would, as I am informed, have furnished, or enabled me to furnish, your Majesty with the questions as well as the answers.

Mrs. Lisle, it should also be observed, was at the time of her examination, under the severe oppression of having, but a few days before, heard of the death of her daughter;—a daughter, who had been happily married, and who had lived happily

with her husband, in mutual attachment till her death. The very circumstance of her then situation would naturally give a graver and severer cast to her opinions. When the question was proposed to her, as a general question, (and I presume it must have been so put to her) whether my conduct was such as would become a married woman, possibly her own daughter's conduct, and what she would have expected of her, might present itself to her mind. And I confidently submit to your Majesty's better judgment, that such a general question ought not, in a fair and candid consideration of my case, to have been put to Mrs. Lisle, or any other woman. For, as to my conduct being, or not being, becoming a married woman; the same conduct, or any think like it, which may occur in my case, could not occur in the case of a married woman, who was not living in my unfortunate situation; or, if it did occur, it must occur under circumstances which must give it, and most deservedly, a very different character. A married woman, living well and happily with her husband, could not be frequently having one gentleman at her table, with no other company but ladies of her family;---she could not be spending her evenings frequently in the same society, and separately conversing with that gentleman, unless either with the privity and consent of her husband, or by taking advantage, with some management, of his igno-

rance and his absence ;—if it was with his privity and consent, that very circumstance alone would unquestionably alter the character of such conduct, —if with management she avoided his knowledge, that very management would betray a bad motive. The cases therefore are not parallel ;—the illustration is not just;—and the question, which called for such an answer from Mrs. Lisle, ought not, in candor and fairness, to have been put.

I entreat your Majesty, however, not to misunderstand me;--I should be ashamed indeed to be suspected of pleading any peculiar or unfortunate circumstance, in my situation, as an excuse for any criminal or indecent act. With respect to such acts, most unquestionably such circumstances can make no difference ;—and afford no excuse. They must bear their own character of disgrace and infamy, under all circumstances. But there are acts, which are unbecoming a married woman, which ought to be avoided by her, from an apprehension lest they should render her husband uneasy, not because they might give him any reason to distrust her chastity, her virtue or her morals, but because they might wound his feelings, by indicating a preference to the society of another man, over his, in a case, where she had the option of both. But surely, as to such acts, they must necessarily bear a very different character, and receive a very different construction, in a case, where, unhappily, there can be no such apprehension, and where there is no such option. I must therefore be excused for

dwelling so much upon this part of the case; and I am sure, your Majesty will feel me warranted in saying, what I say with a confidence, exactly proportioned to the respectability of Mrs. Lisle's character, that, whatever she meant, by any of these expressions, she could not, by possibility, have meant to describe conduct, which to her mind afforded evidence of crime, vice, or indecency. If she had, her regard to her own character, her own delicacy, her own honourable and virtuous feelings, would in less than the two years, which have since elapsed, have found some excuse for separating herself from that intimate connection, which, by her situation in my household, subsists between us. She would not have remained exposed to the repetition of so gross an offence, and insult, to a modest, virtuous, and delicate woman, as that of being made, night by night, witness to scenes, openly acted in her presence, offensive to virtue and decorum.

If your Majesty thinks I have dwelt too long, and tediously, on this part of the case, I entreat your Majesty to think what I must feel upon it. I feel it a great hardship, as I have frequently stated, that under the cover of a grave charge of High Treason, the proprieties, and decencies, of my private conduct and behaviour, have been made the subject, as I believe so unprecedently, of a formal investigation upon oath. And that, in consequence of it, I may, at this moment, be exposed to the danger of forfeiting your Majesty's good opinion, and being degraded and disgraced, in reputation through

the country, because what Mrs. Lisle has said of my conduct,—that it was "only that of a woman who liked flirting," has become recorded in the Report on this formal inquiry, made into matters of grave crimes, and of essential importance to the state.

Let me conjure your Majesty, over and over again, before you suffer this circumstance to prejudice me in your opinion, not only to weigh all the circumstances I have stated, but to look round the first ranks of female virtue, in this country, and see how many women there are of most unimpeached reputation, of most unsullied and unsuspected honour, character and virtue, whose conduct, though living happily with their husbands, if submitted to the judgment of persons of a severer cast of mind, especially if saddened, at the moment, by calamity, might be stiled to be "flirting." I would not however be understood as intending to represent Mrs. Lisle's judgment, as being likely to be marked with any improper austerity, and therefore I am certain she must either have had no idea that the expressions she has used, in the manner which she used them, were capable of being understood, in so serious a light as to be referred to, amongst circumstances deserving the most serious consideration, and which must occasion most unfavourable interpretations; or she must by the imposing novelty of her situation, in private examination before four such grave characters, have been surprised into the use of expressions, which, with a better opportunity of weighing them, she would either not

have used at all, or have accompanied with still more of qualification than that, which she has, however, in some degree, as it is, annexed to them.

But my great complaint is the having, not, particularly, Mrs. Lisle's opinion, but any person's opinion, set up, as it were, in judgment against the propriety of my private conduct. How would it be endured, that the judgment of one man should be asked, and recorded in a solemn Report, against the conduct of another, either with respect to his behaviour to his children, or to his wife, or to any other relative? How would it be endured, in general, and I trust, that my case ought not, in this respect, to form an exception, that one woman should in a similar manner be placed in judgment, upon the conduct of another? And that judgment be reported, where her character was of most importance to her, as amongst things which must be credited till decidedly contradicted? Let every one put these questions home to their own breasts, and before they impute blame to me, for protesting against the fairness and justice of this procedure, ask how they would feel upon it, if it were their own case?

But perhaps they cannot bring their imaginations to conceive that it could ever become their own case. A few months ago I could not have believed that it would have been mine.

But the just ground of my complaint may perhaps be more easily appreciated and felt, by supposing a more familiar, but an analogous case. The

High Treason, with which I was charged, was supposed to be committed in the foul crime of adultery. What would be the impression of your Majesty, what would be the impression upon the mind of any one, acquainted with the excellent laws of your Majesty's kingdom, and the admirable administration of them, if upon a Commission of this kind, secretly to inquire into the conduct of any man, upon a charge of High Treason, against the state, the Commissioners should not only proceed to inquire, whether in the judgment of the witness, the conduct of the accused was such as became a loyal subject; but, when the result of their Inquiry obliged them to report directly against the charge of Treason, they, nevertheless, should record an imputation, or libel, against his character for loyalty, and reporting, as part of the evidence, the opinion of the witness, that the conduct of the accused was such as did not become a loyal subject, should further report, that the evidence of that witness, without specifying any part of it, must be credited till decidedly contradicted, and deserved the most serious consideration? How could he appeal from that Report? How could he decidedly contradict the opinion of the witness? Sire, there is no difference between this supposed case and mine, but this. That in the case of the man, a character for loyalty, however injured, could not be destroyed by such an insinuation. His future life might give him abundant opportunities of falsifying the justice

of it. But a female character, once so blasted, what hope or chance has it of recovery?

Your Majesty will not fail to perceive, that I have pressed this part of the case, with an earnestness which shews that I have felt it. I have no wish to disguise from your Majesty, that I have felt it, and felt it strongly. It is the only part of the case, which I conceive to be in the least degree against me, that rests upon a witness who is at all worthy of your Majesty's credit. How unfair it is, that any thing she has said should be pressed against me, I trust I have sufficiently shewn. In canvassing, however, Mrs. Lisle's evidence, I hope I have never forgot what was due to Mrs. Lisle. I have been as anxious not to do her injustice, as to do justice to myself. I retain the same respect and regard for Mrs. Lisle now, as I ever had. If the unfavourable impressions, which the Commissioners seem to suppose, fairly arise out of the expressions she has used, I am confident they will be understood, in a sense, which was never intended by her. And I should scorn to purchase any advantage to myself, at the expence of the slightest imputation, unjustly cast upon Mrs. Lisle, or any one else.

Leaving therefore, with these observations, Mrs. Lisle's evidence, I must proceed to the evidence of Mr. Bidgood. The parts of it which apply to this part of the case, I mean my conduct to Captain Manby at Montague House, I shall detail. They are as follows.* "I first observed Captain Manby

* Appendix (A.) p. 9.

came to Montague House either the end of 1803, or the beginning of 1804. I was waiting one day in the anti-room ; Captain Manby had his hat in his hand, and appeared to be going away ; he was a long time with the Princess, and, as I stood on the steps waiting, I looked into the room in which they were, and in the reflection on the looking-glass I saw them salute each other. I mean that they kissed each other's lips. Captain Manby then went away. I then observed the Princess have her handkerchief in her hands, and wipe her eyes, as if she was crying, and went into the drawing-room." In his second deposition,* on the 3d July, talking of his suspicions of what passed at Southend, he says, they arose from seeing them kiss each other, as I mentioned before, like people fond of each other ;- a very close kiss."

In these extracts from his depositions, there can undoubtedly be no complaint of any thing being left to inference. Here is a fact, which must unquestionably occasion almost as unfavourable interpretations, as any fact of the greatest impropriety and indecorum, short of the proof of actual crime. And this fact is positively and affirmatively sworn to. And if this witness is truly represented, as one who must be credited till he is decidedly contradicted ; and the decided contradiction of the parties accused, should be considered as unavailing, it constitutes a charge which cannot possibly be answered. For the scene is so laid, that there is no eye to witness it, but his own : and therefore there

* See Appendix (A.) p. 40.

can be no one who can possibly contradict him, however false his story may be, but the persons whom he accused. As for me, Sire, there is no mode, the most solemn that can be devised, in which I shall not be anxious and happy to contradict it. And I do here most solemnly, in the face of Heaven, most directly and positively affirm, that it is as foul, malicious, and wicked a falsehood, as ever was invented by the malice of man. Captain Manby, to whom I have been under the necessity of applying, for that purpose, in the deposition which I annex, most expressly and positively denies it also. Beyond these our two denials, there is nothing which can by possibility be *directly* opposed to Mr. Bidgood's evidence.—All that remains to be done is to examine Mr. Bidgood's credit, and to see how far he deserves the character which the Commissioners give to him.—How unfoundedly they gave such a character to Mr. Cole, your Majesty, I am satisfied, must be fully convinced.

I suppose there must be some mistake, I will not call it by any harsher name, for I think it can be no more than a mistake, in Mr. Bidgood's saying, that the first time he knew Captain Manby come to Montague House, was at the end of 1803, or beginning of 1804; for he first came at the end of the former year;* and the fact is that Mr. Bidgood must have seen him then.—But, however,

*Before 1803.

the date is comparatively immaterial, the fact it is, that is important.

And here, Sire, surely I have the same complaint which I have so often urged. I would ask your Majesty, whether I, not as a Princess of Wales, but as a party accused, had not a right to be thought, and to be presumed, innocent, till I was proved to be guilty? Let me ask, if there ever could exist a case, in which the credit of the witness ought to have been more severely shifted and tried? The fact rested solely upon his single assertion. However false, it could not possibly receive contradiction, but from the parties. The story itself surely is not very probable. My character cannot be considered as under inquiry; it is already gone, and decided upon, by those, if there are any such, who think such a story probable.—That in a room, with the door open, and a servant known to be waiting just by, we should have acted such a scene of gross indecency. The indiscretion at least might have rendered it improbable, even to those, whose prejudices against me, might be prepared to conceive nothing improbable in the indecency of it. Yet this seems to have been received as a fact that there was no reason to question. The witness is assumed, without hesitation, to be the witness of truth, of unquestionable veracity. Not the faintest trace is there to be found of a single question put to him, to try and sift the credit which was due to him, or to his story.

Is he asked, as I suggested before should have

been done with regard to Mr. Cole—To whom he told this fact before? When he told it? what was ever done in consequence of this information? If he never told it, till for the purpose of supporting Lady Douglas's statement, how could he in his situation, as an old servant of the Prince, with whom as he swears, he had lived twenty-three years, creditably to himself, account for having concealed it so long? And how came Lady Douglas and Sir John to find out that he knew it, if he never had communicated it before? If he had communicated it, it would then have been useful to have heard how far his present story was consistent with his former; and if it should have happened that this and other matters, which he may have stated, were, at that time, made the subject of any inquiry; then how far that inquiry had tended to confirm or shake his credit. His first examination was, it is true, taken by Lord Grenville, and Lord Spencer alone, without the aid of the experience of the Lord Chancellor, and Lord Chief Justice; this undoubtedly may *account* for the omission; but the noble Lords will forgive me if I say, it does not *excuse* it, especially as Mr. Bidgood was examined again on the 3d of July, by all the Commissioners, and this fact is again referred to then, as the foundation of the suspicion which he afterwards entertained of Captain Manby at Southend. Nay, that last deposition affords on my part, another ground of similar complaint of the strongest kind. It opens thus: "The Princess used to go

" out in her phaeton with coachman and helper,
" towards Long Reach, eight or ten times, carry-
" ing luncheon and wine with her, when Captain
" Manby's ship was at Long Reach, *always Mrs.*
" *Fitzgerald with her.*—She would go out at one,
" and return about five or six, sometimes sooner
" or later."

The date when Captain Manby's ship was lying at Long Reach, is not given; and therefore whether this was before, or after, the scene of the supposed salute, does not appear. But for what was this statement of Mr. Bidgood's made? Why was it introduced? Why were these drives towards Long Reach with luncheon, connected with Captain Manby's ship lying there at the time, examined to by the Commissioners? The first point, the matter foremost in their minds, when they call back this witness for his re-examination, appears to have been these drives towards Long Reach.—Can it have been for any purpose but to have the benefit of the insinuation, to leave it open to be inferred, that those drives were for the purpose of meeting Captain Manby? If this fact was material, why in the name of justice was it so left? Mrs. Fitzgerald was mentioned by name, as accompanying me in them all: Why was not she called? She perhaps was my confidante; no truth could have been hoped for from her;—still there were my coachman and helper, who likewise accompanied me; Why were they not called? the y are not surely confidants too.—But it is, for what reason I

cannot pretend to say, thought sufficient to leave this fact, or rather this insinuation, upon the evidence of Mr. Bidgood, who only saw, or could see the way I went when I set out upon my drive, instead of having the fact from the persons who could speak to the whole of it; to the places I went to; to the persons whom I met with.

Your Majesty will think me justified in dwelling upon this, the more from this circumstance, because I know, and will shew to your Majesty, on the testimony of Jonathan Partridge, which I annex, that these drives, or at least one of them, have been already the object of previous, and, I believe, nearly cotemporary investigation. The truth is, that it did happen upon two of these drives that I met with Captain Manby; IN ONE of them that he joined me, and went with me to Lord Eardley's, at Belvidere, and that he partook of something which we had to eat;—that some of Lord Eardley's servants were examined as to my conduct upon this occasion;---and am confidently informed that the servants gave a most satisfactory account of all that passed; nay, that they felt, and have expressed, some honest indignation at the foul suspicion which the examination implied. On the other occasion, having the boys to go on board the Africaine, I went with one of my Ladies to see them on board, and Captain Manby joined us in our walk round Mr. Calcraft's Grounds at Ingress Park, opposite to Long Reach; where we walked, while my horses were baiting. We went into no house, and on that occasion had nothing to eat.

Perfectly unable to account why these facts were not more fuly inquired into, if thought proper to be inquired into at all, I return sgain to Mr. Bidgood's evidence. As far as it respects my conduct at Montague House, it is confined to the circumstances which I have already mentioned. And, upon those circumstances, I have no further observation, which may tend to illustrate Mr. Bidgood's credit to offer. But I trust if, from other parts of his evidence, your Majesty sees traces of the strongest prejudices against me, and the most scandalous inferences, drawn from circumstances, which can in no degree support them, your Majesty will then be able justly to appreciate the credit due to every part of Mr. Bidgood's evidence.

Under the other head, into which I have divided this part of the case, I mean my conduct at South-end, as relative to Captain Manby, Mr. Bidgood is more substantial and particular.* His statement on this head begins by shewing that I was at South-end about six weeks before the Africaine, Captain Manby's ship, arrived. That Mr. Sicard was looking out for its arrival, as if she was expected. And as it is my practice to require as constant a correspondence to be kept up with my charity boys, when on board of ship, as the nature of their situation will admit of, and as Mr. Sicard is the person who manages all matters concerning them, and enters into their interests with the most friendly anx-

* See Appendix (A.) p. 10.

iety, he certainly was apprised of the probability of the ship's arrival off Southend, before she came, And here I may as well, perhaps, by the way, remark, that as this correspondence with the boys is always under cover to the Captain; this circumstance may account to your Majesty for the fact, which is stated by some of the witnesses, of several letters being put into the post by Sicard, some of which he may have received from me, which were directed to Captain Manby.

Soon after the arrival of the Africaine, however, Bidgood says, the Captain put off in his boat. Sicard went to meet him, and immediately brought him up to me and my Ladies;--he dined there then, and came frequently to see me. It would have been as candid, if Mr. Bidgood had represented the fact as it really was, though perhaps the circumstance is not very material:—that the Captain brought the two boys on shore with him to see me, and this as well as many other circumstances connected with these boys, the existence of whom, as accounting in any degree for the intercourse between me and Captain Manby, could never have been collected from out of Bidgood's depositions, Sicard would have stated, if the Commissioners had examined him to it. But though he is thus referred to, though his name is mentioned about the letters sent to Captain Manby, he does not appear to have been examined to any of them, and all that he appears to have been asked is, as to his remembering Captain Manby visiting at Montague House, and to my paying the expense of the linen furniture for

his cabin. But Mr. Sicard was, I suppose, represented by my enemies to be a confident, from whom no truth could be extracted, and therefore that it was idle waste of time to examine him to such points; and so unquestionably he, and every other honest servant in my family, who could be supposed to know any thing upon the subject, were sure to be represented by those, whose conspiracy and falsehood, their honesty and truth were the best means of detecting. The conspirators, however, had the first word, and unfortunately their veracity was not questioned, nor their unfavourable bias suspected.

Mr. Bidgood then proceeds to state the situation of the houses, two of which, with a part of a third I had at Southend. He describes No. 9. as the house in which I slept; No. 8, as that in which we dined; and No. 7, as containing a drawing-room, to which we retired after dinner. And he says, "I have several times seen the Princess, after "having gone to No. 7. with Captain Manby and "the rest of the company, retire with Captain "Manby from No. 7, through No. 8, to No. 9, "which was the house where the Princess slept. "I *suspect* that Captain Manby slept very fre-"quently in the house.—Hints were given by the "servants, and I believe that others suspected it as "well as myself."—What those hints were, by what servants given, are things which do not seem to have been thought necessary matters of inquiry. At least there is no trace in Mr. Bidgood's, or any

other witness's examination, of any such inquiry having been made.

In his second deposition, which applies to the same fact, after saying that we went away the day after the Africaine sailed from Southend, he says, "Captain Manby was there three times a week at "the least, whilst his ship lay for six weeks off "Southend at the Nore ;—he came as tide served "in a morning, and to dine, and drink tea. I have "seen him *next* morning by ten o'clock. I sus-"pected he slept at No. 9, the Princess's.—She "always put out the candles herself in the drawing-"room at No. 9, and bid me not wait to put them "up. She gave me the orders as soon as she went "to Southend. I used to see water jugs, basons, "and towels, set out opposite the Princess's door "in the passage. Never saw them so left in the "passage at any other time, and I suspected he was "there at that time ; there was a general suspicion "through the house. Mrs. and Miss Fitzgerald "there, and Miss Hammond (now Mrs. Hood) "there. My suspicion arose from seeing them "in the glass," &c. as mentioned before.—"Her "behaviour like that of a woman attached to a man ; "used to be by themselves at luncheon, at South-"end, when the ladies were not sent for ; a num-"ber of times. There was a poney which Captain "Manby used to ride ; it stood in the stable ready "for him, and which Sicard used to ride." Then he says, the servants used to talk and laugh about

Captain Manby, and that it was matter of discourse amongst them: and this, with what has been alluded to before, respecting Sicard's putting letters for him into the post, which he had received from me, contains the whole of his deposition as far as respects Captain Manby. And, Sire, as to the fact of retiring through No. 8, from No. 7, to No. 9, alone with Captain Manby, I have no recollection of ever having gone with Captain Manby, though but for a moment, from the one room in which the company was sitting, through the dining-room to the other drawing-room. It is, however, now above two years ago, and to be confident that such a circumstance might not have happened, is more than I will undertake to be. But in the only sense in which he uses the expression, as retiring alone, coupled with the immediate context that follows, it is most false and scandalous. I know no means of absolutely proving a negative. If the fact was true, there must have been other witnesses who could have proved it as well as Mr. Bidgood. Mrs. Fitzgerald is the only person of the party, who was examined, and her evidence proves the negative so far as the negative can be proved; for she says, "he dined there, but never staid late. She was "at Southend all the time I was there, and cannot "recollect to have seen Captain Manby there, or "known him to be there, later than nine, or half "past nine." Miss Fitzgerald and Miss Hammond, (now Mrs. Hood) are not called to this fact; although a fact so extremely important, as it must

appear to your Majesty; nor indeed are they examined at all.

As to the putting out of the candles, it seems he says, I have the orders as soon as I went to Southend, which was six weeks before the Africaine arrived; so this plan of excluding him from the opportunity of knowing what was going on at No. 9, was part of a long meditated scheme, as he would represent it, planned and thought of six weeks before it could be executed; and which when it was executed, your Majesty will recollect, according to Mr. Bidgood's evidence, there was so little contrivance to conceal, that the basons and towels, which the Captain is insinuated to have used, were exposed to sight, as if to declare that he was there.——It is tedious and disgusting, Sire, I am well aware, to trouble your Majesty with such particulars; but it doubtless, is true, that I bid him not to take the candles away from No. 9. The candles which are used in my drawing-room, are considered as his perquisites. Those on the contrary which are used in my private apartment are the perquisites of my maid. I thought that upon the whole it was a fairer arrangement, when I was at Southend, to give my maid the perquisites of the candles used at No. 9; and I made the arrangement accordingly, and ordered Mr. Bidgood to leave them. This, Sire, is the true account of the fact respecting the candles; an arrangement which very possibly Mr. Bidgood did not like.

But the putting out the candles myself, was

not the only thing, from which the inference is drawn, that Captain Manby slept at my house, at No. 9, and as is evidently insinuated, if not stated, in my bed-room. There were water-jugs, and basons, and towels left in the passage, which Mr. Bidgood never saw at other times. At what other times does he mean? At other times than those at which he suspected, from seeing them there, that Captain Manby slept in my house? If every time he saw the basons and towels, &c. in the passage, he suspected Captain Manby slept there, it certainly would follow that he never saw them at times when he did not suspect that fact. But Sire, upon this important fact, important to the extent of convicting me, if it were true, of High Treason, if it were not for the indignation which such scandalous, licentious wickedness and malice excite, it would hardly be possible to treat it with any gravity. Whether there were or were not basons and towels sometimes left in a passage at Southend, which were not there generally, and ought to have been never there, I really cannot inform your Majesty. It certainly is possible, but the utmost it can prove, I should trust, might be some slovenliness in my servant, who did not put them in their proper places; but surely it must be left to Mr. Bidgood alone to trace any evidence, from such a circumstance, of the crime of adultery in me. But I cannot thus leave this fact, for I trust I shall here again have the same advantage from the excess and extravagance of this man's

malice, as I have already had on the other part of the charge, from the excess and extravagance of his confederate Lady Douglas.

What is the charge that he would insinuate? That I meditated and effected a stolen, secret, clandestine intercourse with an adulterer? No.—Captain Manby, it seems according to his insinuation, slept with me in my own house, under circumstances, of such notoriety that it was impossible that any of my female attendants at least should not have known it. Their duties were varied on the occasion; they had to supply basons and towels in places where they never were supplied, except when prepared for him; and they were not only purposely so prepared, but prepared in an open passage, exposed to view, in a manner to excite the suspicion of those who were not admitted into the secret. And what a secret was it, that was thus to be hazarded! No less than what, if discovered, would fix Captain Manby and myself with High Treason! Not only therefore must I have been thus careless of reputation, and eager for infamy; but I must have been careless of my life, as of my honour.—Lost to all sense of shame, surely I must have still retained some regard for life.—Captain Manby too with a folly and madness equal to his supposed iniquity, must then have put his life in the hands of my servants and depended for his safety upon their fidelity to me, and their perfidy to the Prince their master. If the excess of vice and crime in all this is believed,

could its indiscretion, its madness find credulity to adopt it almost upon an evidence? But what must be the state of that man's mind, as to prejudice, who could come to the conclusion of believing it, from the fact of some water-jugs and towels being found in an unusual place, in a passage near my bed-room? For as to his suspicion being raised by what he says he saw in the looking-glass, if it was as true as it is false, that could not occasion, his believing, on any particular night, that Captain Manby slept in my house; the situation of these towels and basons is what leads to that belief.

But, Sire, may I ask, did the Commissioners believe this man's suspicions? If they did, what do they mean by saying that these facts of great indecency, &c. went to a much less extent than the principal charges? And that it was not for them to state their bearing and effect? The bearing of this fact unquestionably, if believed, is the same as that of the principal charge: namely, to prove me guilty of High Treason. They therefore could not believe it. But if they did not believe it and as it seems to me, Sire, no men of common judgment could, on such a statement how could they bring themselves to name Mr. Bidgood as one of those witnesses on whose unbiassed tessimony they could so rely? or how could they, (in pointing him out with the other three as speaking to facts, *particularly with respect to Captain Manby*, which must be credited till decidedly contradicted, omit to specify the facts which he spoke to that

they thus thought worthy of belief, but leave the whole, including this incredible part of it, recommended to belief by their general and unqualified sanction and approbation.

But the falsehood of this charge does not rest on its incredibility alone. My servant Mrs. Sander, who attended constantly on my person, and whose bed room was close to mine, was examined by the Commissioners; she must have known this fact if it had been true; she positively swears, "that she did not know or believe, that Captain Manby staid till very late hours with me; that she never suspected there was any improper familiarity between us. M. Wilson, who made my bed, swears, that she had been in the habit of making it ever since she lived with me, that another maid, whose name was Ann Bye, assisted with her in making it, and swears from what she observed, that she never had any reason to believe that two persons had slept in it. Referring thus by name to her fellow-servant, who made the bed with her, but that servant, why I know not, is not examined.

As your Majesty then finds the inference drawn by Bidgood to amount to a fact so openly and undisguisedly profligate, as to outrage all credibility, as your Majesty finds it negatived by the evidence of three witnesses, one of whom, in particular, if such a fact were true, must have known it; as your Majesty finds one witness appealing to another, who is pointed out as a person who must have been able, with equal means of knowledge, to have confirmed her if she spoke true, and to

have contradicted her if she spoke false. And, Sire, when added to all this, your Majesty is graciously pleased to recollect that Mr. Bidgood was one of those who, though in my service, submitted themselves voluntarily to be examined previous to the appointment of the Commissioners, in confirmation of Lady Douglas's statement, without informing me of the fact; and when I state to your Majesty, upon the evidence of Philip Krackeler and Robert Eaglestone, whose deposition I annex, that this unbiassed witness, during the pendency of these examinations before the Commissioners, was seen to be in conference and communication with Lady Douglas, my most ostensible accuser, do I raise my expectations too high, when I confidently trust that his malice, and his falsehood, as well as his connection in this conspiracy against my honour, my station in this kingdom, and my life, will appear to your Majesty too plainly for him to receive any credit, either in this or any other part of his testimony?

The other circumstances, to which he speaks, are comparatively too trifling, for me to trouble your Majesty with any more observations upon his evidence.

The remaining part of the case, which respects Captain Manby relates to my conduct at East Cliff.

How little Mrs. Lisle's examination affords for observations upon this part of the case, except as shewing how very seldom Captain Manby cal-

led upon me while I was there, I have already observed. Mr. Cole says nothing upon this part of the case; nor Mr. Bidgood. The only witness amongst the four whose testimonies are distinguished by the Commissioners as most material, and as those on which they particularly rely, who says any thing upon this part of the case is Fanny Lloyd. Her deposition is as follows. *

"I was at Ramsgate with the Princess in 1803. "One morning when we were in the house at "East Cliff, somebody, I don't recollect who, "knocked at my door, and desired me to prepare "breakfast for the Princess. This was about six "o'clock; I was asleep. During the whole time I "was in the Princes's service, I had never been "called up before to make the Princess's breakfast. "I slept in the house-keeper's room, on the ground "floor. I opened the shutters of the window for "light. I knew at that time that Captain Manby's "ship was in the Downs. When I opened the "shutters, I saw the Princess, walking down the "Gravel-Walk towards the sea. No orders had "been given me over-night to prepare breakfast "early. The gentleman the Princess was with "was a tall man. I was surprised to see the "Princess walking with a gentleman at that time "in the morning. I am sure it was the Princess."

What this evidence of Fanny Lloyd applies, I do not feel certain that I recollect. The circumstances which she mentions might, I think, have occurred twice while I was there, and which time

Appendix. (A.) p. 13.

she alludes to, I cannot pretend to say. I mean on occasion of two water parties, which I intended; one of which did not take place at all, and the other not so early in the day as was intended, nor was its object effected. Once I intended to pay Admiral Montague a visit to Deal. But, wind and tide not serving, we sailed much later than we intended; and instead of landing at Deal, the Admiral came on board our vessel, and we returned to East Cliff in the evening, on which occasion Captain Manby was not of the party, nor was he in the Downs—but it is very possible, that having prepared to set off early, I might have walked down towards the sea, and been seen by Fanny Lloyd. On the other occasion, Captain Manby was to have been of the party, and it was to have been on board his ship. I desired him to be early at my house in the morning, and if the day suited me, we would go. He came; I walked with him towards the sea, to look at the morning; I did not like the appearance of the weather, and did not go to sea. Upon either of these occasions Fanny Lloyd might have been called up to make breakfast, and might have seen me walking. As to the orders not having been given her over night, to that I can say nothing.

But upon this statement, what inference can be intended to be drawn from this fact? It is the only one in which F. Lloyd's evidence can in any degree be applied to Captain Manby, and she is one of the important witnesses referred to, as

proving something which must, particularly as with regard to Captain Manby, be credited till contradicted, and as deserving the most serious consideration. From the examination of Mrs. Fitzgerald I collect, that she was asked whether Captain Manby ever slept in the house at East Cliff, to which she, to the best of her knowledge, answers in the negative. Is this evidence then of Fanny Lloyd's relied upon to afford an inference that Captain Manby slept in my house; or was there at an improper hour? or in a manner, and under circumstances, which afforded reason for unfavourable interpretations? If this were so, can it be believed that I would, under such circumstances, have taken a step, such as calling for breakfast, at an unusual hour, which must have made the fact more notorious and remarkable, and brought the attention of the servants, who must have waited at the breakfast, more particularly and pointedly to it?

But if there is any thing which rests, or is supposed to rest, upon the credit of this witness--though she is one of the four, whose credit Your Majesty will recollect it has been stated that there was no reason to question, yet she stands in a predicament in which, in general, at least, I had understood it to be supposed, that the credit of a witness was not only questionable, but materially shaken. For, towards the beginning of her examination, she states,* that Mr. Mills attended her for a cold; he asked her if the Prince came to Black-

* Appendix (A.) p. 13.

heath backwards and forwards; or something to that effect: for the Princess was with child; or looked as if she was with child. This must have been three or four years ago. She thought it must be sometime before the child (W. Austin) was brought to the Princess. To this fact she positively swears, and in this she is as positively contradicted by Mr. Mills;* for he swears, in his deposition before the Commissioners, that he never did say to her, or any one, that the Princess was with child, or looked as if she was with child;—that he never thought so nor surmissed any thing of the kind. Mr. Mills has a partner, Mr. Edmeads. The Commissioners therefore, conceiving that Fanny Lloyd might have mistaken one of the partners for the other, examine Mr. Edmeads also. Mr. Edmeads,† in his deposition, is equally positive, that he never said any such thing—so the matter rests upon these depositions; and upon that state of it, what pretence is there for saying, that a witness who swears to a conversation with a medical person, who attended me, of so extremely important a nature; and is so expressly and decidedly contradicted in the important fact which she speaks to, is a witness whose credit there appears no reason to question? This important circumstance must surely have been overlooked when that statement was made.

But this fact of Mr. Mills and Mr. Edmeads's contradiction of Fanny Lloyd, appears to Your Majesty, for the first time, from the examination before the

* Appe.A. p. 32. Appendix. (A.) p. 30.

Commissioners.—But this is the fact which I charge as having been known to those, who are concerned in bringing forward this information, and which, nevertheless, was not communicated to Your Majesty.—The fact that Fanny Lloyd declared, that Mr. Mills told her the Princess was with child, is stated in the declarations which were delivered to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and by him forwarded to Your Majesty.—The fact that Mr. Mills denied ever having so said, though known at the same time, is not stated.

That I may not appear to have represented so strange a fact, without sufficient authority, I subjoin the Declaration of Mr. Mills, and the Deposition of Mr. Edmeades, which prove it. Fanny Lloyd's original Declaration which was delivered to His Royal Highness, is dated on the 12th of February. It appears to have been taken at the Temple; I conclude therefore at the chambers of Mr. Lowten, Sir John Douglas's solicitor, who,* according to Mr. Cole, accompanied him to Cheltenham to procure some of these Declarations. On the 13th of February, the next day after Fanny Lloyd's Declaration, the Earl of Moira sends for Mr. Mills upon pressing business. Mr. Mills attends him on the 14th; he is asked by his Lordship upon the subject of this conversation; he is told he may rely upon his Lordship's honour, that what passed should be in perfect confidence; (a confidence which Mr. Mills, feeling it to be on a subject too important to his character, at the moment disclaims;)—that it was

* Appendix (B.) No. 103.

his (the Earl of Moira's) duty to his Prince, as his counsellor, to inquire into the subject, which he had known for some time.—Fanny Lloyd's statement being then related to Mr. Mills, Mr. Mills, with great warmth, declared that it was an infamous falsehood.—Mr. Lowten, who appears also to have been there by appointment, was called into the room, and he furnished Mr. Mills with the date to which Fanny Lloyd's declaration applied. The meeting ends in Lord Moira's desiring to see Mr. Mills's partner, Mr. Edmeades, who, not being at home cannot attend him for a few days. He does, however, upon his return, attend him on the 20th of May: on his attendance, instead of Mr. Lowten, he finds Mr. Conant, the magistrate, with Lord Moira. He denies the conversation with Fanny Lloyd, as positively and peremptorily as Mr. Mills. Notwithstanding however all this, the Declaration of Fanny Lloyd is delivered to His Royal Highness, and accompanied by these contradictions, and forwarded to Your Majesty on the 29th. That Mr. Lowten was the Solicitor of Sir John Douglas in this business, cannot be doubted, that he took some of those Declarations, which were laid before Your Majesty, is clear; and that he took this Declaration of Fanny Lloyd's, seems not to be questionable. That the Inquiry by Earl Moira, two days after her Declaration was taken, must have been in consequence of an early communication of it to him, seems necessarily to follow from what is above stated; that it was known, on the 14th of

May, that Mr. Mills contradicted this assertion; and, on the 20th, that Mr. Edmeades did, is perfectly clear; and yet, notwithstanding all this, the fact, that Mr. Edmeades and Mr. Mills contradicted it, seems to have been not communicated to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, for he, as it appears from the Report, forwarded the Declarations which had been delivered to His Royal Highness, through the Chancellor, to Your Majesty; and the Declaration of Fanny Lloyd, which had been so falsified, to the knowledge of the Earl Moira and of Mr. Lowten, the Solicitor for Sir John Douglas, is sent in to Your Majesty as one of the documents, on which you were to ground your Inquiry, unaccompanied by its falsification by Mills and Edmeades; at least, no declarations by them are amongst those, which are transmitted to me, as copies of the original Declarations which were laid before Your Majesty. I know not whether it was Lord Moira, or Mr. Lowten, who should have communicated this circumstance to His Royal Highness; but that, in all fairness, it ought unquestionably to have been communicated by some one.

I dare not trust myself with any inferences from this proceeding; I content myself with remarking, that it must now be felt, that I was justified in saying, that neither His Royal Highness, nor Your Majesty, any more than myself, had been fairly dealt with, in not being fully informed upon this important fact; and Your Majesty will forgive a weak, unprotected woman, like myself,

who, under such circumstances, should apprehend that, however Sir John and Lady Douglas may appear my ostensible accusers, I have other enemies, whose ill-will I may have occasion to fear, without feeling myself assured, that it will be strictly regulated, in its proceeding against me, by the principles of fairness and of justice.

I have now, Sire, gone through all the evidence which respects Captain Manby ; whether at Montague House, Southend, or East Cliff, and I do trust, that Your Majesty will see, upon the whole of it, how mistaken a view the Commisstoners have taken of it. The pressure of other duties engrossing their time and their attention, has made them leave the important duties of this investigation, in many particulars, imperfectly discharged —a more thorough attention to it must have given them a better and truer insight into the characters of those witnesses, upon whose credit, as I am convinced, Your Majesty will now see, they have without sufficient reason relied. There remains nothing for me, on this part of the charge to perform ; but, adverting to the circumstance which is falsely sworn against me by Mr. Bidgood, of the salute, and the false inference and insinuation, from other facts, that Captain Manby slept in my house, either at Southend, or East Cliff, on my own part most solemnly to declare, that they are both utterly false ; that Bidgood's assertion as to the salute, is a malicious slanderous invention, without the slightest shadow of truth to support it ; that his suspicions

and insinuations, as to Captain Manby's having slept in my house, are also the false suggestions of his own malicious mind; and that Captain Manby never did, to my knowledge or belief, sleep in my house at Southend, East Cliff, or any other house of mine whatever; and, however often he may have been in my company, I solemnly protest to Your Majesty, as I have done in the former cases, that nothing ever passed between him and me, that I should be ashamed, or unwilling that all the world should have seen. And I have also, with great pain, and with a deep sense of wounded delicacy, applied to Captain Manby to attest to the same truths, and I subjoin to this letter his Deposition to that effect.

I stated to Your Majesty, that I should be obliged to return to other parts of Fanny Lloyd's testimony; At the end of it she says, *"I never told Cole that M. Wilson, when she supposed the Princess to be in the library, had gone into the Princess's bed-room, and had found a man there at breakfast with the Princess; or that there was a great to do about it, and that M. Wilson was sworn to secrecy, and threatened to be turned away, if she divulged what she had seen." This part of her examination, your Majesty will perceive, must have been called from her, by some precise question, addressed to her, with respect to a supposed communication from her to Mr. Cole. In Mr. Cole's examination, there is not one word upon the subject of it. In his original declaration, how-

* Appendix (A.) p. 14.

ever there is; and there *your Majesty will perceive, that he affirms the fact of her having reported to him Mary Wilson's declaration in the very same words in which Fanny Lloyd denies it, and it is therefore evident that the Commissioners, in putting this question to Fanny Lloyd, must have put it to her from Cole's declaration. She positively denies the fact; there is then a flat and precise contradiction, between the examination of Fanny Lloyd and the original statement of Mr. Cole. It is therefore impossible that they both can have spoken true. The Commissioners, for some reason, don't examine Cole to this point at all; don't endeavour to trace out this story; if they had, they must have discovered which of these witnesses spoke the truth, but they leave this contradiction, not only unexplained, but uninquired after, and in that state, report both these witnesses, *Cole* and *Fanny Lloyd*, who thus speak to the two sides of a contradiction, and who therefore cannot by possibility both speak truth, as witnesses who cannot be suspected of partiality, whose credit they see no reason to question, and whose story must be believed till contradicted.

But what is, if possible, still more extraordinary, this supposed communication from F. Lloyd to Cole, as your Majesty observes, relates to something which M. Wilson is supposed to have seen and to have said; yet though M. Wilson appears herself to have been examined by the Commissioners on the same day with Fanny Lloyd, in the

* Appendix (B.) p. 99.

copy of her examination, as delivered to me, there is no trace of any question relating to this declaration having been put to her.

And I have not less reason to lament, than to be surprised, that it did not occur to the Commissioners to see the necessity of following this Inquiry still further. For, if properly pursued, it would have demonstrated two things, both very important to be kept in mind in the whole of this consideration. First, how hearsay representations of this kind, arising out of little or nothing, become magnified and exaggerated by the circulation of prejudiced, or malicious, Reporters; and, Secondly, it would have shewn the industry of Mr. and Mrs. Bidgood, as well as Mr. Cole, in collecting information in support of Lady Douglas's statement, and in improving what they collected by their false colourings, and malicious additions to it. They would have found a story in Mrs. Bidgood's* declaration, as well as in her husband's† (who relates it as having heard it from his wife,) which is evidently the same as that which W. Cole's declaration contains. For the Bidgood's declarations state, that Fanny Lloyd told Mrs. Bidgood that Mary Wilson had gone into the Princess's bed room, and had found her Royal Highness and Sir Sidney in the most criminal situation; that she had left the room, and was so shocked, that she fainted away at the door. Here then are Mrs Bidgood, and Mr. Cole, both declaring what they had heard Fanny Lloyd say, and Fanny Lloyd denying it. How extraordinary is it that they were not all confronted!

* Appendix (B.) 106. † Appendix (B.) p. 103.

and your Majesty will see presently how much it is to be lamented that they were not. For, from Fanny Lloyd's original declaration, it appears that the truth would have come out. As she there states that,* "To the best of her knowledge Mary Wilson said, that she had seen the Princess and Sir Sidney *in the Blue Room,* but never heard Mary Wilson say she was so alarmed as to be in a fit." If then, on confronting Fanny Lloyd with Mrs. Bidgood and Mr. Cole, the Commissioners had found Fanny Lloyd's story to be what she related before, and had then put the question to Mary Wilson, and had heard from her what it really was which she had seen and related to Fanny Lloyd, they could not have been at a loss to have discovered which of these witnesses told the truth, They would have found, I am perfectly confident, that all that Mary Wilson ever could have told Fanny Lloyd, was that she had seen Sir Sidney and myself in the Blue Room, and they would then have had to refer to the malicious, and confederated inventions of the Bidgoods and Mr. Cole, for the conversion of the blue-room, into the bed-room; for the vile slander of what M. Wilson was supposed to have seen, and for the violent effect which this scene had upon her. I say their *confederated inventions,* as it is impossible to suppose that they could have been concerned in inventing the same additions to Fanny Lloyd's story, unless they had communicated together upon it. And when they had once found Mrs. Bidgood and Mr. Cole, thus conspiring to-

* Appendix (B.) p. 107.

gether, they would have had no difficulty in connecting them both in the same conspiracy with Sir John Douglas, by shewing how connected Cole was with Sir John Douglas, and how acquainted with his proceedings, in collecting the evidence which was to support Lady Douglas's declaration.

For, by referring to Mr. Cole's declaration, made on the 23d of February,* they would have seen that Mr. Cole, in explaining some observation about Sir Sidney's supposed possession of a key to the garden door, says that it was what "Mr. Lampert, "the servant of Sir John Douglas, mentioned at "Cheltenham to Sir John Douglas and Mr. Low-"ten."—How should Mr. Cole know that Sir John Douglas and Mr. Lowten had been down to Cheltenham, to collect evidence from this old servant of Sir John Douglas's? How should he have known what that evidence was? unless he had either accompanied them himself, or at least had had such a communication either with Sir John Douglas, or Mr. Lowten, as it never could have occurred to any of them to have made to Mr. Cole, unless, instead of being a mere witness, he were a party to this accusation? But whether they had convinced themselves, that Fanny Lloyd spoke true, and Cole and Mrs. Bidgood falsely; or whether they had convinced themselves of the reverse, it could not have been possible, that they both could have spoken the truth; and, consequently, the Commissioners could never have reported the ve-

* Appendix (B.) p. 103.

racity of both to be free from suspicion, and deserving of credit.

There only remains that I should make a few observations on what appears in the examinations relative to Mr. Hood, (now Lord Hood,) Mr. Chester, and Captain Moore. And I really should not have thought a single observation necessary upon either of them, except that what refers to them is stated in the examinations of Mrs. Lisle.

With respect to Lord Hood it is as follows:

* "I was at Catherington with the Princess;— "remember Mr. (now Lord Hood) there, and the "Princess going out airing with him, alone in "Mr. Hood's little whiskey;— and his servant was "with them; Mr. Hood drove, and staid out two "or three times;—more than once, three or four "times. Mr. Hood dined with us several times; "once or twice he slept in a house in the garden; "she appeared to pay no attention to him, but "that of common civility to an intimate acquain- "tance." Now, Sire, it is undoubtedly true that I drove out several times with Lord Hood in his one horse chaise, and some few times, twice I believe at most, without any of my servan's attending us; and considering the time of life, and the respectable character of my Lord Hood, I never should have conceived that I incurred the least danger to my reputation in so doing. If indeed it was the duty of the Commissioners to inquire into instances of my conduct, in which they may conceive it to have been less reserved and dignified, than

* Appendix (A.) No. 27.

what would properly become the exalted station which I hold in your Majesty's Royal Family, it is possible that, in the opinions of some, these drives with my Lord Hood were not consistent with that station; and that they were particularly improper in those instances in which we were not attended by more servants, or any servants of my own. Upon this I have only to observe, that these instances occurred after I had received the news of the lamented death of your Majesty's brother, the Duke of Gloucester. I was at that time down by the sea side for my health. I did not like to forego the advantage of air and exercise for the short remainder of the time which I had to stay there; and I purposely chose to go out, not in my own carriage, and unattended, that I might not be seen, and known to be driving about (myself and my attendants out of mourning) while his Royal Highness was known to have been so recently dead. This statement, however, is all that I have to make upon my part of the case, and whatever indecorum or impropriety of behaviour the Commissioners have fixed upon me by this circumstance, it must remain; for I cannot deny the truth of the fact, and have only the above explanation to offer of it. As to what Mrs. Lisle's examination contains with respect to Mr. Chester and Captain Moore, it is so connected, that I must trouble your Majesty with the statement of it altogether.

* "I was with Her Royal Highness at Lady Sheffield's at Christmas in Sussex;—I inquired what

* Appendix (A.) p. 44.

company was there when I came,—she said, only Mr. John Chester, who was there by her Royal Highness's orders; that she could get no other company to meet her, on account of the roads, and the season of the year. He dined and slept there that night; the next day other company came, Mr. Chester remained. I heard Her Royal Highness say she had been ill in the night, and came out for a light, and lighted her candle in her servant's room. I returned from Sheffield-place to Blackheath with the Princess; Captain Moore dined there; I left him and the Princess twice alone, for a short time; he might be alone half an hour with her in the room below, in which we had been sitting. I went to look for a book to compleat a set her Royal Highness was lending Captain Moore. She made him a present of an inkstand, to the best of my recollection. He was there one morning in January last, on the Princess's Charlotte's birth-day; he went away before the rest of the company. I might be about twenty minutes the second time I was away, the night Captain Moore was there. At Lady Sheffield's her Royal Highness paid more attention to Mr. Chester than to the rest of the company. I know of her Royal Highness walking out alone, twice, with Mr. Chester in the morning alone; once, a short time it rained, the other not an hour, not long. Mr. Chester is a pretty young man; her attentions to him were not uncommon; not the same as to Captain Manby."

And first, Sire, as to what relates to Mr. Chester. If there is any imputation to be cast upon my character by what passed at Sheffield-place with Mr. Chester, (and by the Commissioners returning to examine Mrs. Lisle upon my attention to Mr. Chester, my walking out with him, and above all, " as to his being a pretty young man," I conceive it to be so intended) I am sure your Majesty will see that it is the hardest thing imaginable upon me, that, upon an occurrence which passed in Lady Sheffield's house, on a visit to her, Lady Sheffield herself was never examined; for if she had been, I am convinced that these Noble Lords, the Commissioners, never could have put me to the painful degradation of stating any thing upon this subject.

The statement begins by Mrs. Lisle's inquiring, what company was there? and Lady Sheffield saying, " only Mr. John Chester, who was there by her Royal Highness's orders; that she could get no other company on account of the roads." Is not this, Sire, left open to the inference that Mr. John Chester was the only person who had been invited by my orders? If Lady Sheffield had been examined, she would have been able to have produced the very letter in which, in answer to her Ladyship's request, that I would let her know what company it would be agreeable for me to meet, I said, " every thing of the name of North, all the Legges, and Chesters, William and John, &c. &c. and Mr. Elliott." Instead of singing out, therefore, Mr. John Chester, I included him in the enume-

ration which I made of the near relations of Lady Sheffield; and your Majesty from this alone cannot fail to see how false a colour, even a true fact can assume, if it be not sufficiently inquired into and explained.

As to the circumstances of my having been taken ill in the night, being obliged to get up, and light my candle; why this fact should be recorded, I am wholly at a loss to conceive. All the circumstances however respecting it, connected very much as they are with the particular disposition of Lady Sheffield's house, would have been fully explained, if thought material to have been inquired after, by Lady Sheffield herself; and I should have been relieved from the painful degradation of alluding at all to a circumstance which I could not further detail, without a great degree of indelicacy; and as I cannot possibly suppose such a detail can be necessary for my defence, it would, especially in addressing your Majesty, be wholly inexcusable. With respect to the attention which I paid to Mr. Chester, and my walking out twice alone with him for a *short time*, I know not how to notice it. At this distance of time I am not certain that I can, with perfect accuracy, account for the circumstance. It appears to have been a rainy morning; it was on the 27th or 2th of December; and whether, wishing to take a walk, I did not desire Lady Sheffield or Mrs. Lisle or any Lady to accompany me in doing what, in such a morning, I

might think might be disagreeable to them, I really cannot precisely state to your Majesty.

But here again, perhaps, in the judgment of some persons, may be an instance of familiarity which was not consistent with the dignity of the Princess of Wales; but surely prejudice against me and my character must exceed all natural bounds in those minds in which any inference of crime, or moral depravity can be drawn from such a fact. As to Captain Moore, it seems he was left alone with me, and twice in one afternoon by Mrs. Lisle; he was alone with me half an hour. The first time Mrs. Lisle left us, her examination says, it was to look for a book which I wished to lend to Captain Moore. How long she was absent on that occasion she is not asked, but it could have been but ten minutes, as she appears to have been absent twenty minutes the second time. The Commissioners, though they particularly return to the inquiry with respect to the length of time of her second absence, did not require her to tell them the occasion of it: if they had, she would have told them, that it was in search of the same book; that having on the first occasion looked for it in the drawing room, she went afterward's to aee for it in Mrs. Fitzgerald's room.—But I made him a present of an inkstand. I hope your Majesty will not think I am trifling with your patience when I take notice of such trifles. But it is of such trifles as these, that the evidence consists, when it is the evidence of respectable witnesses speaking to facts

and consequently speaking only the truth. Captain Moore had conferred on me what I felt as a considerable obligation. My mother is very partial to the late Doctor Moore's writings, Captain Moore, as your Majesty knows, is his son, and he promised to lend me, for the purpose of sending it to my mother, a manuscript of an unpublished work of theDoctor's. In return for this civility I begged his acceptance of a trifling present.

There is one circumstance alluded to in these examinations, which I know not how to notice, and yet feel it impossible to omit—I mean what respects certain anonymous papers, or letters, marked A. B. and C. to which Lord Cholmondeley appears to have been examined, upon the supposition of their being my hand-writing. A letter marked A. appears, by the examination of Lady Douglas, to have been produced by her; and the two papers, marked B. and a cover, marked C. appear to have been produced by Sir John. These papers I have never seen; but I collect them to be the same as are alluded to in Lady Douglas's original Declaration, and, from her representation of them, they are most infamous productions. From the stile and language of the letter, she says, Sir John Douglas, Sir Sidney Smith,and herself, would have no manner of hesitation in swearing point blank,(for tha t is her phrase) to their being in my hand-writing; and it seems, from the statement of His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, that Sir Sidney Smith had been imposed upon to believe, that these letters and papers were really

written and sent to Sir John and Lady Douglas by me. I cannot help, however, remarking to your Majesty, that, though Sir John and Lady Douglas produce these papers, and mark them, yet neither the one nor the other swears to their belief of my hand-writing; it does not, indeed, appear, that they were asked the question; and when it once occurred to the Commissioners to be material to inquire whose hand-writing these papers were, I should have been much surprised at their not applying to Sir John and Lady Douglas to swear it, as in their original Declaration they offer to do, if it had not been that, by that time, I suppose, the Commissioners had satisfied themselves of the true value of Sir John and Lady Douglas's oaths, and therefore did not think it worth while to ask them any further questions.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, as appears by his narrative,* was convinced, by Sir Sidney Smith, that these letters came from me. His Royal Highness had been applied to by me, in consequence of my having received a formal note from Sir John, Lady Douglas, and Sir Sidney Smith, requesting an audience immediately; this was soon after my having desired to see no more of Lady Douglas. I conceived, therefore, the audience was required for the purpose of remonstrance, and explanation upon this circumstance, and as I was determined not to alter my resolution, nor admit of any discussion upon

* Appendix (B.) No. 2.

it, I requested His Royal Highness, who happened to be acquainted with Sir Sidney Smith, to try to prevent my having any further trouble upon the subject. His Ro al Highness saw Sir Sidney Smith, and being impressed by him with the belief of Lady Douglas's story, that I was the author of these anonymous letters, he did that which naturally became him, under such belief; he endeavoured, for the peace of Your Majesty, and the honour of the Royal Family, to keep from the knowledge of the world, what, if it had been true, would have justly reflected such infinite disgrace upon me; and, it seems, from the narrative that he procured, through Sir Sidney Smith, Sir John Douglas's assurance that he would, under existing circumstances, remain quiet, if left unmolested. "This result (His Royal Highness says) he communicated to me the following day, and I seemed satisfied with it." And undoubtedly as he only communicated the result to me, I could not be otherwise than satisfied: for as all that I wanted was, not to be obliged to see Sir John and Lady Douglas, and not to be troubled by them any more, the result of his Royal Highness's interference, through Sir Sidney Smith, was to procure me all that I wanted. I do not wonder that his Royal Highness did not mention to me the particulars of these infamous letters and drawings, which were ascribed to me; for, as long as he believed they were mine, undoubtedly it was a subject which he must have wished to avoid; but I lament, as it happens, that he did not, as I should have satisfied

him, as far, at least, as any assertions of mine could have satisfied him, by declaring to him, as I do now most solemnly, that the letter is not mine, and that I know nothing whatever of the contents of it, or of the other papers; and, I trust, that His Royal Highness, and every one else who may have taken up any false impression concerning them to my prejudice, from the assertion of Sir John and Lady Douglas, will, upon my assertion, and the evidence of Lord Cholmondeley, remove from their minds this calumnious falsehood, which, with many others, the malice of Sir John and Lady Douglas has endeavoured to fasten upon me.

To all these papers Lady Douglas states, in her Declaration, that, not only herself and Sir John Douglas, but Sir Sidney Smith, would have no hesitation in swearing to be in my hand-writing.—What says Lord Cholmondeley?*— "that he is perfectly acquainted with my manner of writing. Letter A. is not of my hand-writing; that the two papers marked B. appear to be wrote in a disguised hand; that some of the letters in them remarkably resemble mine, but, because of the disguise, he cannot say whether they are or not; as to the cover marked C. he did not see the same resemblance." Of these four papers (all of which are stated by Lady Douglas to be so clearly and plainly mine, that there can be no hesitation upon the subject) two bear no resemblance to it, and although the other two, written in a disguised hand, have some letters remarkably resembling mine, yet, I trust, I

* Appendix (A.) p. 47.

shall notl upon such evidence, be subjected to so base an imputation ; and really, Sire, I know not how to account for the Commissioners examining and reporting upon this subject in this manner. For I understand from Mrs. Fitzgerald, that these drawings were produced by the Commissioners to her ; and that she was examined as to her knowledge of them, and as to the hand-writing upon them ; that she was satisfied, and swore that they were not my hand-writing, and that she knew nothing of them, and did not believe they could possibly come from any lady in my house. She was shewn theseal also, which Lady Douglas, in her Declaration, says, was the " identical one with " which I had summoned Sir John Douglas to " luncheon." To this seal, though it so much resembled one that belonged to herself, as to make her hesitate till she had particularly observed it, she was at last as positive as to the hand-writing, and having expressed herself with some feeling and indignation at the supposition, that either I, herself, or any of my ladies, could be guilty of so foul a transaction, the Commissioners tell her, they were satisfied, and believed her ; and there is not one word of all this related in her examination.--- Now, if their Lordships were satisfied from this, or any other circumstance, that these letters were not my writing; and did not come from me, I can account for their not preserving any trace of Mrs. Fitzgerald's evidence on this point, and leaving it out of their inquiry altogether ; but, if they

thought proper to preserve any evidence upon it, to make it the subject of any examination; surely they should not have left it on Lord Cholmondeley's alone; but I ought to have had the benefit of Mrs. Fitzgerald's evidence also. But, as I said before, they take no notice of her evidence; nay, they finish their Report, they execute it according to the date it bears, upon the 14th of July, and it is not until two days afterwards, namely, on the 16th, that they examine Lord Cholmondeley to the hand-writing—with what view, and for what purpose, I cannot even surmise; but with whatever view, and for whatever purpose, if these letters are at all to be alluded to in their Report, or the examinations accompanying it, surely I ought to have had the benefit of the other evidence, which disproved my connection with them.

I have now, Sire, gone through all the matters contained in the examination, on which I think it, in any degree, necessary, to trouble your Majesty with any observations.—For as to the examination of Mrs. Townley the washerwoman, if it applies at all, it must have been intended to have afforded evidence of my pregnancy and miscarriage.--And whether the circumstance she speaks to was occasioned by my having been bled with leeches, or whether an actual miscarriage did take place in my family, and by some means linen belonging to me was procured and used upon the occasion; or to whatever other circumstance it is to be ascribed

after the manner in which the Commissioners have expressed their opinion, on the part of the case respecting my supposed pregnancy, and after the evidence on which they formed their opinion, I do not conceive myself called upon to say any thing upon it; or that any thing I could say could be more satisfactory than repeating the opinion of the Commissioners, as stated in their Report, viz. "That nothing had appeared to them which would warrant the belief that I was pregnant in that year, (1802,) or at any other period within the compass of their Inquiries--that they would not be warranted in expressing any doubt respecting the alleged pregnancy of the Princess, as stated in the original declarations, a fact so fully contradicted, and by so many witnesses, to whom, if true, it must in various ways have been known, that we cannot think it entitled to the smallest credit."

There are indeed some other matters mentioned in the original declarations, which I might have found it necessary to observe upon; but as the Commissioners do not appear to have entered into any examination with respect to them, I content myself with thinking that they had found the means of satisfying themselves of the utter falsehood of those particulars, and therefore that they can require no contradiction or observation from me.

On the declaration, therefore, and the evidence, I have nothing further to remark. And, conscious of the length at which I have trespassed on your Majesty's patience, I will forbear to waste

your time by any endeavour to recapitulate what I have said. Some few observations, however, before I conclude, I must hope to be permitted to subjoin.

In many of the observations which I have made, your Majesty will observe that I have noticed, what have appeared to me to be great omissions on the part of the Commissioners, in the manner of taking their examinations; in forbearing to put any questions to the witnesses, in the nature of a cross-examination of them;--to confront them with each other; and to call other witnesses, whose testimony must either have confirmed or falsified, in important particulars, the examinations as they have taken them. It may perhaps occur, in consequence of such observations, that I am desirous that this Inquiry should be opened again; that the Commissioners should recommence their labours, and that they should proceed to supply the defects in their previous examinations, by a fuller execution of their duty.---I therefore think it necessary, most distinctly and emphatically to state, that I have no such meaning; and whatever may be the risk that I may incur of being charged with betraying a consciousness of guilt, by thus flying from an extension or repetition of this Inquiry, I must distinctly state, that so far from requesting the revival of it, I humbly request your Majesty would be graciously pleased to understand me as remonstrating, and protesting against it, in the strongest and most solemn manner in my power.

I am yet to learn the legality of such a Commission

to inquire, even in the case of High Treason, or any other crime known to the laws of the country. If it is lawful in the case of High Treason, supposed to be committed by me, surely it must be lawful also in the case of High Treason supposed to be committed by other subjects of your Majesty.

That there is much objection to it, in reason and principle, my understanding assures me. That such Inquiries, carried on upon *ex parte* examination, and a Report of the result by persons of high authority, may, nay must, have a tendency to prejudice the character of the parties who are exposed to them, and thereby influence the further proceedings in their case;--that are calculated to keep back from notice, and in security, the person of a false accuser, and to leave the accused in the predicament of neither being able to look forward for protection to an acquittal of himself nor for redress to the conviction of his accuser.--That these and many other objections occur to such a mode of proceeding, in the case of a crime known to the laws of this country, appears to be quite obvious.--But if Commissioners acting under such a power, or your Majesty's Privy Council, or any regular Magistrates, when they have satisfied themselves of the falsehood of the principal charge, and the absence of all legal and substantive offence, are to be considered as empowered to proceed in the examination of the particulars of private life; to report upon the proprieties of domestic conduct; and the decorums of private behaviour, and to pronounce their opinion against the party, upon the evidence of

dissatisfied servants, whose veracity they are to hold up as unimpeachable, and to do this without permitting the persons whose conduct is inquired into, to suggest one word in explanation or contradiction of the matter with which they are charged: it would, I submit to your Majesty, prove such an attack upon the security and confidence of domestic life, such a means of recording, under the sanction of great names and high authority, the most malicious, and foulest imputations, that no character could possibly be secure; and would do more to break in upon and undetermine the happiness and comfort of life, than any proceeding which could be imagined.

The public in general perhaps may feel not much interest in the establishment of such a precedent in my case. They may think it to be a course of proceeding scarcely applicable to any private subject; yet, if once such a court of honour, of decency, and of manners, was established, many subjects might occur to which it might be thought advisable to extend its jurisdiction, beyond the instance of a Princess of Wales. But should it be intended to be confined to me, your Majesty, I trust, will not be surprised to find that it does not reconcile me the better to it, should I learn myself to be the single instance in your kingdom, who is exposed to the scrutiny of so severe and formidable a tribunal. So far therefore from giving that sanction or consent to any fresh Inquiry, upon similar principles, which I should seem to do, by requiring the renewal of

these examinations, I must protest against it; protest against the nature of the proceeding, because its result cannot be fair, I must protest, as long at least as it remains doubtful, against the legality of what has already passed, as well as the legality of its repetition.—If the course be legal, I must submit to the laws, however severe they may be. But I trust new law is not to be found out, and applied to my case.--If I am guilty of crime, I know I am amenable, I am most contented to continue so, to the impartial laws of your Majesty's kingdom; and I fear no charge brought against me, in open day, under the public eye, before the known tribunals of the country, administering justice under those impartial and enlightened laws. But secret tribunals, created for the first time for me, to form and pronounce opinions upon my conduct, without hearing me; to record, in the evidence of the witnesses which they report, imputations against my character upon *ex parte* examinations,---till I am better reconciled to the justice of their proceedings, I cannot fail to fear. And till I am better informed as to their legality, I cannot fail in duty to my dearest interests, most solemnly to remonstrate and to protest against them.

If such tribunals as these are called into action against me by the false charges of friends turned enemies, of servants turned traitors, and acting as spies by the foul conspiracy of such social and domestic treason; I can look to no security to my honour in the most spotless and most cautious innocence.

By the contradiction and denial which in this case I have been enabled to procure, of the most important facts which have been sworn against me by Mr. Cole and Mr. Bidgood ;--by the observations, and the reasonings, which I have addressed to your Majesty, I am confident, that to those whose sense of justice will lead them to wade through this long detail, I shall have removed the impressions which have been raised against me.—But how am I to insure a patient attention to all this statement ? How many will hear that the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench, the First Lord of the Treasury, and one of your Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, have reported against me, upon evidence which they have declared to be unbiassed and unquestionable ; who will never have the opportunity, or if they had the opportunity, might not have the inclination, to correct the error of that Report, by the examination of my statement.

I feel, therefore, that by this proceeding, my character has received essential injury. For a Princess of Wales to have been placed in a situation, in which it was essential to her honour to request one gentleman to swear, that he was not locked up at midnight in a room with her alone: and another, that he did not give her a lascivious salute, and never slept in her house, is to have been actually degraded and disgraced.—I have been, Sire, placed in this situation, I have been cruelly, your Majesty will permit me to say so, cruelly degraded into the necessity of making such re-

quests. A necessity which I never could have been exposed to, even under this Inquiry, if more attention had been given to the examination of these malicious charges, and of the evidence on which they rest.

Much solicitude is felt, and justly so, as connected with this Inquiry, for the honour of your Majesty's illustrious Family. But surely a true regard to that honour should have restrained those who really felt for it, from casting such severe reflections on the character and virtue of the Princess of Wales.

If, indeed, after the most diligent and anxious Inquiry, penetrating into every circumstance connected with the charge, searching every source from which information could be derived, and scrutinizing with all that acuteness, into the credit and character of the witnesses, which great experience, talent, and intelligence could bring to such a subject; and above all, if, after giving me some opportunity of being heard, the force of truth had, at length, compelled any persons to form, as reluctantly, and as unwillingly as they would, against their own daughters, the opinion that has been pronounced; no regard, unquestionably, to my honour and character, nor to that of your Majesty's Family, as, in some degree, involved in mine, could have justified the suppression of that opinion, if legally called for, in the course of official and public duty. Whether such caution and reluctance are really manifest in these proceedings, I must leave to less partial judgments than my own to determine.

In the full examination of these proceedings, which justice to my own character has required of me, I have been compelled to make many observations, which, I fear, may prove offensive to persons in high power—Your Majesty will easily believe, when I solemnly assure you, that I have been deeply sorry to yield to the necessity of so doing. This proceeding manifests that I have enemies enough; I could not wish unnecessarily to increase their number, or their weight. I trust, however, I have done it, know I it has been my purpose to do it, in a manner as little offensive as the justice due to myself would allow of; but I have felt that I have been deeply injured; that I have had much to complain of: and that my silence now would not be taken for forbearance, but would be ascribed to me as a confession of guilt. The Report itself announced to me, that these things, which had been spoken to by the witnesses, "great improprieties and indecencies of conduct," "necessarily occasioning most unfavourable interpretations, and serving the most serious consideration," "must be credited till decidedly contradicted." The most satisfactory disproof of these circumstances (as the contradiction of the accused is always received with caution and distrust) rested in the proof of the foul malice and falsehood of my accusers and their witnesses. The Report announced to Your Majesty that those witnes-

ses, whom I felt to be foul confederates in a base conspiracy against me, were not to be suspected of unfavourable bias, and their veracity, in the judgment of the Commissioners, not to be questioned.

Under these circumstances, Sire, what could I do? Could I forbear, in justice to myself, to announce to Your Majesty the existence of a conspiracy against my honour, and my station in this country at least, if not against my life? Could I forbear to point out to Your Majesty, how long this intended mischief had been meditated against me? Could I forbear to point out my doubts, at least, of the legality of the Commission under which the proceeding had been had? or to point out the errors and inaccuracies, into which the great and able men who were named in this commission, under the hurry and pressure of their great official occupations, had fallen, in the execution of this duty? Could I forbear to state, and to urge, the great injustice and injury that had been done to my character and my honour, by opinions pronounced against me without hearing me? And if, in the execution of this great task, so essential to my honour, I have let drop any expressions which a colder, and more cautious prudence, would have checked, I appeal to Your Majesty's warm heart, and generous feelings, to suggest my excuse, and to afford my pardon.

What I have said, I have said under the

pressure of much misfortune, under the provocation of great and accumulated injustice. Oh! Sire, to be unfortunate, and scarce to feel at liberty to lament; to be cruelly used, and to feel it almost an offence and a duty to be silent is a hard lot; but use had, in some degree inured me to it: But to find my misfortunes and my injuries imputed to me as faults; to be called to account upon a charge, made against me by Lady Douglas, who was thought at first worthy of credit, although she had pledged her veracity to the fact, of my having admitted that I was myself the aggressor in every thing, of which I had to complain, has subdued all power of patient bearing, and when I was called upon by the Commissioners, either to admit, by my silence, the guilt which they imputed to me, or to enter into my defence, in contradiction to it—no longer at liberty to remain silent, I, perhaps, have not known how, with exact propriety, to limit my expressions.

In happier days of my life, before my spirit had been yet at all lowered by my misfortunes, I should have been disposed to have met such a charge with the contempt which, I trust, by this time, your Majesty thinks due to it; I should have been disposed to have defied my enemies to the utmost, and to have scorned to answer to any thing but a legal charge, before a competent tribunal: but in my present misfortunes, such force of mind is gone. I ought perhaps, so far to be thankful to them for their wholesome les-

sons of humility. I have, therefore entered into this long detail, to endeavour to remove, at the first possible opportunity, any unfavourable impressions; to rescue myself from the dangers which the continuance of these suspicions might occasion, and to preserve to me your Majesty's good opinion, in whose kindness, hitherto, I have found infinite consolation, and to whose justice, under all circumstances, I can confidently appeal.

Under the impression of these sentiments I throw myself at your Majesty's feet. I know, that whatever sentiments of resentment; whatever wish for redress, by the punishment of my false accusers, I ought to feel, your Majesty, as the Father of a Stranger, smarting under false accusation, as the Head of your illustrious House dishonoured in me, and as the great Guardian of the Laws of your Kingdom, thus foully attempted to have been applied to the purposes of injustice, will not fail to feel for me. At all events, I trust your Majesty will restore me to the blessing of your Gracious Presence, and confirm to me, by your own Gracious Words, your satisfactory conviction of my innocence.

I am,

SIRE,

With every sentiment of Gratitude and Loyalty,
Your Majesty's most affectionate
and dutiful Daughter-in-Law,
Subject and Servant,

C. P.

Montague House, 2d October, 1806.

The Deposition of Thomas Manby, Esquire, a Captain in the Royal Navy.

Having had read to me the following passage, from the Copy of a Deposition of Robert Bidgood, sworn the 6th of June last, before Lords Spencer and Grenville, viz.

" I was waiting one day in the anti-room; Captain
" Manby had his hat in his hand, and appeared to
" be going away; he was a long time with the
" Princess, and, as I stood on the steps, waiting, I
" looked into the room in which they were, and,
" in the reflection on the looking-glass, I saw them
" salute each other—I mean, that they kissed each
" other's lips. Captain Manby then went away,
" I then observed the Princess have her handker-
" chief in her hands, and wipe her eyes, as if she
" was crying, and went into the drawing-room."

I do solemnly, and upon my oath, declare, that the said passage is a vile and wicked invention; that it is wholly and absolutely false; that it is impossible he ever could have seen, in the reflection of any glass, any such thing, as I never, upon any occasion, or in any situation, ever had the presumption to salute Her Royal Highness in any such manner, or to take any such liberty, or offer any such insult to her person. And having had read to me another passage, from the same Copy of the same Deposition, in which the said Robert Bidgood says—

" I suspected that Captain Manby slept frequently in
" the house; it was a subject of conversation in the
" house. Hints were given by the servants; and I
" believe that others suspected it as well as myself."

I solemnly swear, that such suspicion is wholly unfounded, and that I never did, at Montague House, Southend, Ramsgate, East Cliff, or any where else, ever sleep in any house occupied by, or belonging to, Her

Royal Highness the Princess of Wales and that there never did any thing pass between Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales and myself, that I should be in any degree unwilling that all the world should have seen.

(Signed) THO. MANBY.

Sworn at the Public Office,
Hatton Garden, London,
the 22d day of September, 1806, before me,
(Signed) THOMAS LEACH.

The Deposition of Thomas Lawrence, of Greek-street Soho, in the County of Middlesex, Portrait Painter.

Having had read to me the following Extract from a Copy of a Deposition of William Cole, purporting to have been sworn before Lords Spencer and Grenville the 10th day of June, 1806, viz.

"Mr. Lawrence, the painter, used to go to Montague "House about the latter end of 1801, when he "was painting the Princess, and he has slept in "the house two or three nights together. I have "often seen him alone with the Princess sat eleven or "twelve o'clock at night; he has been there as "late as one or two o'clock in the morning. One "night I saw him with the Princess in the blue "room, after the ladies had retired; sometime "afterwards, when I supposed he was gone to "his bed-room, I went to see that all was safe, "and found the blue room door locked, and "heard a whispering in it, and then went away."

I do solemnly, and upon my oath, depose that having received the commands of Her Royal Highness the

Princess of Wales to paint her Royal Highness's Portrait, and that of the Princess Charlotte; I attended for that purpose at Montague House, Blackheath, several times about the beginning of the year 1801, and having been informed that Sir William Beechey, upon a similar occasion, had slept in the house, for the greater convenience of executing his painting; and it having been intimated to me, that I might probably be allowed the same advantage, I signified my wish to avail myself of it; and accordingly I did sleep at Montague House several nights:—that frequently, when employed upon this painting, and occasionally, between the close of a day's sitting and the time of Her Royal Highness dressing for dinner, I have been alone in Her Royal Highness's presence; I have likewise been graciously admitted to Her Royal Highness's presence in the evenings, and remained there till twelve, one, and two o'clock; but, I do solemnly swear, I was never alone in the presence of Her Royal Highness in an evening, to the best of my recollection and belief, except in one single instance, and that for a short time, when I remained with Her Royal Highness in the blue-room, or drawing-room, as I remember, to answer some question which had been put to me, at the moment I was about to retire together with the ladies in waiting, who had been previously present as well as myself; and, though I cannot recollect the particulars of the conversation which then took place, I do solemnly swear, that nothing passed between Her Royal Highness and myself, which I could have had the least objection for all the world to have seen and heard. And I do further, upon my oath, solemnly declare, that I never was alone in the presence of Her Royal Highness in any other place, or in any other way, than as above described; and that neither, upon the occasion last mentioned, nor upon any other, was I ever in

the presence of Her Royal Highness, in any room whatever, with the door locked, bolted, or fastened, otherwise than in the common and usual manner, which leaves it in the power of any person on the outside of the door to open it.

(Signed) THOMAS LAWRENCE.

Sworn at the Public Office,
Hatton Garden, this 24th
day of September, 1806,
before me,
(Signed) THOMAS LEACH.

The Deposition of Thomas Edmeades, of Greenwich, in the County of Kent, Surgeon.

On Tuesday, May 20th, 1806, I waited upon Earl Moira, by his appointment, who, having introduced me to Mr. Connant, a Magistrate for Westminster, proceeded to mention a charge preferred against me, by one of the female servants of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, of my having said, that her Royal Highness had been pregnant. His Lordship then asked me, if I had not bled her Royal Highness; and whether, at that time, I did not mention to a servant, that I thought her Royal Highness in the family way; and whether I did not also ask, at the same time, if the Prince had been down to Montague House. I answered, that it had never entered my mind that her Royal Highness was in such a situation, and that, therefore, certainly, I never made the remark to any one; nor had I asked whether his Royal Highness had visited the house:—I said, that, at that time, a report, of the nature alluded to, was prevalent; but that I treated it as the infamous lie of the day. His Lordship

adverted to the circumstance of Her Royal Highness's having taken a child into her house; and observed, how dreadful mistakes about succession to the throne were, and what confusion might be caused by any claim of this child: I observed, that I was aware of it; but repeated the assertion, that I had never *thought* of such a thing as was suggested, and therefore considered it impossible, in a manner, that I could have given it utterance. I observed, that I believed, in the first instance, Mr. Stikeman, the page, had mentioned this child to Her Royal Highness, and that it came from Deptford, where I went, when Her Royal Highness first took it, to see if any illness prevailed in the family. Mr. Connant observed, that he believed it was not an unusual thing for a medical man, when he imagined that a Lady was pregnant, to mention his suspicion to some confidential domestic in the family: —I admitted the *bare* possibility, *if* such had been my opinion; but remarked, that the *if* must have been removed, before I could have committed myself in so absurd a manner.

Lord Moira, in a very significant manner, with his hands behind him, his head over one shoulder, his eyes directed towards me, with a sort of smile, observed, "that he could not help thinking that there must be *something* in the servant's deposition;" as if he did not give perfect credit to what I had said. He observed that the matter was then confined to the knowledge of a few; and that he had hoped, if there had been any foundation for the affidavit, I might have acknowledged it, that the affair might have been hushed. With respect to the minor question, I observed, that it was not probable that I should condescend to ask any such question, as that imputed to me, of a menial servant; and that I was not in the habits of conferring confidentially with servants. Mr. Connant cautioned me to be on my guard; as, that if it appeared, on further investigation, I had made such in-

quiry, it might be very unpleasant to me, should it come under the consideration of the Privy Council. I said that I considered the report as a malicious one; and was ready to make oath, before any Magistrate, that I had not, at any time, asserted, or even thought, that Her Royal Highness had ever been in a state of pregnancy since I had had the honour of attending the household. Mr. Connant asked me, whether, *whilst* I was bleeding Her Royal Highness, or *after* I had performed the operation, I did not make some comment on the situation of Her Royal Highness, from the state of the blood; and whether I recommended the operation; I answered in the negative to both questions. I said, that Her Royal Highness had sent for me to bleed her, and that I did not then recollect on what account. I said that I had bled Her Royal Highness twice; but did not remember the dates. I asked Lord Moira, whether he intended to proceed in the business, or whether I might consider it as at rest, that I might have an opportunity, if I thought necessary, of consulting my friends relative to the mode of conduct I ought to adopt; he said, that if the subject was moved any further, I should be apprized of it; and that, at present, it was in the hands of a few. I left them, and, in about an hour, on further consideration, wrote the note, of which the following is a copy, to which I never received any reply:

"Mr. Edmeades presents his respectful compliments to "Lord Moira, and, on mature deliberation, after leaving "his Lordship, upon the conversation which passed at "Lord Moira's this morning, he feels it necessary to ad-"vise with some friend, on the propriety of making the "particulars of that conversation known to Her Royal "Highness the Princess of Wales; as Mr. Edmeades "would be very sorry that her Royal Highness should "consider him capable of such infamous conduct as that

" imputed to him on the deposition of a servant, by Lord
" Moira, this morning.

" *London, May* 20, 1806."

I have been enabled to state the substance of my interview with Lord Moira and Mr. Connant with the more particularity, as I made memorandums of it, within a day or two afterwards. And I do further depose, that the Papers hereunto annexed, marked A. and B. are in the hand-writing of Samuel Gillam Mills, of Greenwich aforesaid, my Partner; and that he is at present, as I verily believe, upon his road from Wales, through Gloucester, to Bath.

(Signed) THOS. EDMEADES.

Sworn at the Public Office,
Hatton Garden, this 26th
day of September, 1806,
(Signed) THOMAS LEACH.

(A.)

Memorandums of the Heads of Conversation between Lord Moira, Mr. Lowten, and himself.

May 14, 1806.

May 13, 1806. I received a letter from Lord Moira, of which the following is an exact copy:

St. James's-place, May 13, 1806.

SIR,

A particular circumstance makes me desire to have the pleasure of seeing you, and, indeed, renders it indispensable that you should take the trouble of calling on me. As the trial in Westminster Hall occupies the latter hours of the day, I must beg you to be with me as early as nine o'clock, to-morrow morning; in the mean time, it will

be better that you should not apprize any one of my having requested you to converse with me.

I have the honour, Sir, to be

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) MOIRA.

To Mr. Mills.

This is the Paper A. referred to by the Affidavit of Thomas Edmeades, sworn before me this 26th September, 1806.

THOMAS LEACH.

(B.)

In consequence of the above letter I waited on his Lordship, exactly at nine o'clock. In less than five minutes I was admitted into his room, and by him received very politely. He began the conversation by stating, he wished to converse with me on a very delicate subject; that I might rely on his honour, that what passed was to be in perfect confidence; it was his duty to his Prince, as his Counsellor, to inquire into the subject, which he had known for some time; and the inquiry was due also to my character. He then stated, that a deposition had been made by a domestic of Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, deposing, as a declaration made by me, that Her Royal Highness was pregnant, and that I made inquiries when interviews might have taken place with the Prince. I answered, that I never had declared the Princess to be with child, nor ever made the inquiries stated; that the declaration was an infamous falsehood. This being expressed with some warmth, his Lordship observed that I might have made the inquiries very innocently,

conceiving, that Her Royal Highness could not be in that situation but by the Prince. I repeated my assertion of the falsehood of the declaration, adding, that though the conversation was intended to be confidential, I felt my character strongly attacked by the declaration, therefore it was necessary that the declaration should be investigated; I had no doubt but the character I had so many years maintained, would make my assertion believed before the deposition of a domestic. I then requested to know, what date the declaration bore? His Lordship said, he did not remember; but he had desired the Solicitor to meet me, who would shew it me. I then observed, that I should in confidence communicate to his Lordship, why I was desirous to know the date; I then stated to his Lordship, that soon after Her Royal Highness came to Blackheath, I attended her in an illness, with Sir Francis Millman, in which I bled her twice.—Soon after her recovery, she thought proper to form a regular medical appointment, and appointed myself and Mr. Edmeades to be Surgeons and Apothecaries to Her Royal Highness; on receiving my warrant for such appointment, I declined accepting the honour of being appointed Apothecary, being inconsistent with my character, being educated as Surgeon, and having had an honorary degree of Physic conferred on me; Her Royal Highness condescended to appoint me her Surgeon only. His Lordship rang to know if Mr. Lowten was come; he was in the next room. His Lordship left me for a few minutes, returned, and introduced me to Mr. Lowten with much politeness—as Dr. Mills; repeating the assurance of what passed being confidential. I asked Mr. Lowten the date of the declaration, that had been asserted to be made by me? He said, in the year 1802. I then, with permission of his Lordship, gave the history of my appointment, adding, since then I had never seen the Prin-

cess as a patient. Once she sent for me to bleed her; I was from home; Mr. Edmeades went; nor had I visited any one in the house, except one Mary, and that was in a very bad case of surgery; I was not sure whether it was before or after my appointment. Mr. Lowten asked me the date of it; I told him I did not recollect. He observed, from the warmth of my expressing my contradiction to the deposition, that I saw it in a wrong light; that I might suppose, and very innocently, Her Royal Highness to be pregnant, and then the enquiries were as innocently made. I answered, that the idea of pregnancy never entered my head; that I never attended Her Royal Highness in any sexual complaint; whether she ever had any I never knew. Mr. Lowten said, I might think so, from her increase of size; I answered, no; I never did think her pregnant, therefore never could say it, and that the deposition was an infamous falsehood. His Lordship then observed, that he perceived there must be a mistake, and that Mr. Edmeades was the person meant, whom he wished to see; I said, he was then at Oxford, and did not return before Saturday; his Lordship asked, if he came through London; I said, I could not tell.

Finding nothing now arising from conversation, I asked to retire; his Lordship attended me out of the room with great politeness.

When I came home, I sent his Lordship a letter, with the date of my warrant, April 10, 1801; he answered my letter, with thanks for my immediate attention, and wished to see Mr. Edmeades on Sunday morning. This letter came on the Saturday; early on the Sunday I sent Timothy, to let his Lordship know Mr. Edmeades would not return till Monday; on Tuesday I promised he should attend, which he did.

The preceding Memorandum is an exact copy of what I made the day after I had seen Lord Moira.

(Signed) SAM. GILLAM MILLS.

Croome Hill, Grenwich,
Aug. 20, 1806.

This is the Paper marked B. referred to by the Affidavit of Thomas Edmeades, sworn before me this 26th September, 1806,

(Signed) THOMAS LEACH.

The Deposition of Jonathan Partridge, Porter to Lord Eardly, at Belvidere.

I remember being informed by Mr. Kenny, Lord Eardley's late Steward, now dead, that I was wanted by Lord Moira, in town; accordingly I went with Mr. Kenny to Lord Moira's in Saint James's,-place, on the King's Birth-Day of 1804. His Lordship asked me, if I remembered the Princess coming to Belvidere sometime before? I said, yes, and told him that there were two or three ladies, I think three, with Her Royal Highness, and a gentleman with them, who come on horseback; that they looked at the pictures in the house, had their luncheon there, and that Her Royal Highness's servants waited upon them, as I was in a dishabille. His Lordship asked me, whether they went up stairs? and I told them that they did not. He asked me, how long they staid? and I said, as far as I recollected, they did not stay above an hour, or an hour and quarter; that they waited some little time for the carriage, which had gone to the public-house, and, till it came, they walked up and down alto-

gether in the portico before the house. His Lordship, in the course of what he said to me, said, it was a subject of importance, and might be of consequence. His Lordship, finding that I had nothing more to say, told me I might go.

Sometimes afterwards, his Lordship sent for me again, and asked me, if I was sure of what I said, being all that I could say respecting the Princess? I said, it was; and that I was ready to take my oath of it, if his Lordship thought proper. He said, it was very satisfactory; said, I might go, and he should not want me any more.

(Signed) JONATHAN PARTRIDGE.

Sworn at the County Court of Middlesex, in Fullwood's Rents, the 25th day of September, 1806, before me,

(Signed) THOMAS LEACH.

The Deposition of Philip Krackeler, one of the Footmen of Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, and Robert Eaglestone, Park-Keeper to Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales.

These Deponents say, that on, or about the 28th day of June last, as they were walking together across Greenwich Park, they saw Robert Bidgood, one of the Pages of her Royal Highness, walking in a direction, as if he were going from the town of Greenwich, towards the house of Sir John Douglas, and which is a different road from that which leads to Montague House, and they at the same time perceived Lady Douglas walking in a direction to

meet him. And this Deponent, Philip Krackeler, then desired the other Deponent to take notice, whether Lady Douglas and Mr. Bidgood would speak to each other; and both of these Deponents observed, that when Lady Douglas and Mr. Bidgood met, they stopped, and conversed together for the space of about two or three minutes, whilst in view of these Deponents; but how much longer their conversation lasted these Deponents cannot say, as they, these Deponents, proceeded on their road which took them out of sight of Lady Douglas and Mr. Bidgood.

(Signed) PHILIP KRACKELER.
ROBT. EAGLESTONE.

Sworn at the Public Office,
Hatton Garden, this 27th
day of September, 1806,
before me,

(Signed) THOMAS LEACH.

To the King.

SIRE,

I TRUST your Majesty who knows my constant affection, loyalty, and duty, and the sure confidence with which I readily repose my honour, my character, my happiness in your Majesty's hands, will not think me guilty of any disrespectful or unduteous impatience, when I thus again address myself to your Royal grace and justice.

It is, Sire, nine weeks to day, since my counsel presented to the Lord High Chancellor, my letter to your Majesty, containing my observations, in vindication of my honour and innocence upon the Report, presented to your Majesty by the Commissioners, who had been appointed to examine into my conduct. The Lord Chancellor informed my counsel, that the letter should be conveyed to your Majesty on that very day: and further, was pleased, in about a week or ten days afterwards, to communicate to my Solicitor, that your Majesty had read my letter, and that it had been transmitted to his Lordship with directions that it should be copied for the Commissioners, and that when such copy had been taken, the original should be returned to your Majesty.

Your Majesty's own gracious and royal mind will easily conceive what must have been my state of anxiety and suspence, whilst I have been fondly

indulging in the hope, that every day, as it passed, would bring me the happy tidings, that your Majesty was satisfied of my innocence; and convinced of the unfounded malice of my enemies, in every part of their charge. Nine long weeks of daily expectation, and suspence, have now elapsed; and they have brought me nothing but disappointment. I have remained in total ignorance of what has been done, what is doing, or what is intended upon this subject. Your Majesty's goodness will therefore pardon me, if in the step which I now take, I act upon a mistaken conjecture with respect to the fact. But from the Lord Chancellor's communication to my Solicitor, and from the time which has elapsed, I am led to conclude, that your Majesty had directed the copy of my letter to be laid before the Commissioners, requiring their advice upon the subject; and, possibly, their official occupations, and their other duties to the state, may not have, as yet, allowed them the opportunity of attending to it. But your Majesty will permit me to observe that, however excusable this delay may be on their parts, yet it operates most injuriously upon me; my feelings are severely tortured by the suspence, while my character is sinking in the opinion of the public.

It is known, that a Report, though acquitting me of crime, yet imputing matters highly disreputable to my honour, has been made to your Majesty;—that that Report has been communicated to me;—that I have endeavoured to answer it; and that I still remain, at the end of nine weeks from

the delivery of my answer, unacquainted with the judgment which is formed upon it. May I be permitted to observe upon the extreme prejudice which this delay, however to be accounted for by the numerous important occupations of the Commissioners, produces to my honour? The world, in total ignorance of the real state of the facts, begin to infer my guilt from it. I feel myself already sinking, in the estimation of your Majesty's subjects, as well as of what remains to me of my own family, into (a state intolerable to a mind conscious of its purity and innocence) a state in which my honour appears at last equivocal, and my virtue is suspected. From this state I humbly entreat your Majesty to perceive, that I can have no hope of being restored, until either your Majesty's favourable opinion shall be graciously notified to the world, by receiving me again into the Royal Presence, or until the full disclosure of the facts shall expose the malice of my accusers, and do away every possible ground for unfavourable inference and conjecture.

The various calamities with which it has pleased God of late to afflict me, I have endeavoured to bear, and trust I have borne with humble resignation to the Divine will. But the effect of this infamous charge, and the delay which has suspended its final termination by depriving me of the consolation which I should have received from your Majesty's presence and kindness, have given a heavy addition to them all; and surely my bitterest enemies could hardly wish that they should be in-

creased. But on this topic, as possibly not much affecting the justice, though it does the hardship, of my case, I forbear to dwell.

Your Majesty will be graciously pleased to recollect, that an occasion of assembling the Royal Family and your subjects, in dutiful and happy commemoration of her Majesty's Birth-day, is now near at hand. If the increased occupations which the approach of Parliament may occasion, or any other cause, should prevent the Commissioners from enabling your Majesty to communicate your pleasure to me before that time; the world will infallibly conclude(in their present state of ignorance,) that my answer must have proved unsatisfactory, and that the infamous charges have been thought but too true.

These considerations, Sire, will, I trust, in your Majesty's gracious opinion, rescue this address from all imputation of impatience. For, your Majesty's sense of honourable feeling will naturally suggest, how utterly impossible it is that I, conscious of my own innocence, and believing that the malice of my enemies has been completely detected, can, without abandoning all regard to my interests, my happiness, and my honour, possibly be contented to perceive the approach of such utter ruin to my character, and yet wait, with patience, and in silence till it overwhelms me. I therefore take this liberty of throwing myself again at your Majesty's feet, and intreating and imploring of your Majesty's goodness and justice, in pity for my mi-

series which this delay so severely aggravates, and in justice to my innocence and character, to urge the Commissioners to an early communication of their advice.

To save your Majesty and the Commissioners all unnecessary trouble, as well as to obviate all probability of further delay, I have directed a duplicate of this letter to be prepared, and have sent one copy of it through the Lord Chancellor, and another through Colonel Taylor to your Majesty.

I am,

Sire,

With every sentiment of gratitude and loyalty,
Your Majesty's most affectionate,
and dutiful Daughter-in-law,
Servant and Subject.
C. P.

Montague House,
December 8th, 1806.

THE Lord Chancellor has the honour to present his most humble duty to the Princess of Wales, and to transmit to Her Royal Highness, the accompanying Message from the King; which Her Royal Highness will observe, he has His Majesty's commands to communicate to Her Royal Highness.

The Lord Chancellor would have done himself the honour to have waited personally upon Her Royal Highness, and have delivered it himself; but he considered the sending it sealed; as more respectful and acceptable to Her Royal Highness. The Lord Chancellor received the original paper from the King yesterday, and made the copy now sent in his own hand.

January Twenty-eighth, 1807.

To Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales.

THE King having referred to his confidential Servants the proceedings and papers relative to the written declarations, which had been before His Majesty, respecting the conduct of the Princes of Wales, has been apprised by them, that after the fullest consideration of the examinations

taken on that subject, and of the observations and affidavits brought forward by the Princess of Wales's legal advisers, they agree in the opinions, submitted to His Majesty in the original Report of the four Lords, by whom His Majesty directed that the matter should in the first instance be inquired into; and that, in the present stage of the business, upon a mature and deliberate view of this most important subject in all its parts, and bearings, it is their opinion, that the facts of this case do not warrant their advising that any further step should be taken in the business by His Majesty's Government or any other proceedings instituted upon it, except such only as His Majesty's Law Servants may, on reference to them, think fit to recommend for the prosecution of Lady Douglas, on those parts of her depositions which may appear to them to be justly liable thereto.

In this situation, His Majesty is advised, that it is no longer necessary for him to decline receiving the Princess into His Royal Presence.

The King sees, with great satisfaction, the agreement of his confidential servants, in the decided opinion expressed by the four Lords upon the falsehood of the accusations of pregnancy and delivery, brought forward against the Princess by Lady Douglas.

On the other matters produced in the course of the Inquiry, the king is advised that none of the facts or allegations stated in preliminary ex-

aminations, carried on in the absence of the parties interested, can be considered as legally, or conclusively, established. But in those examinations, and even in the answer drawn in the name of the Princess by her legal advisers, there have appeared circumstances of conduct on the part of the Princess, which his Majesty never could regard but with serious concern. The elevated rank which the Princess holds in this country, and the relation in which she stands to His Majesty and the Royal Family, must always deeply involve both the interests of the State, and the personal feelings of His Majesty, in the propriety and correctness of her conduct. And His Majesty cannot therefore forbear to express, in the conclusion of the business, his desire and expectation, that such a conduct may in future be observed by the Princess, as may fully justify those marks of paternal regard and affection, which the King always wishes to shew to every part of His Royal Family.

His Majesty has directed that this message should be transmitted to the Princess of Wales, by his Lord Chancellor, and that copies of the proceedings, which had taken place on the subject, should also be communicated to his dearly beloved Son, The Prince of Wales.

Montague House,
January 29th, 1807.

SIRE,

I HASTEN to acknowledge the receipt of the paper, which, by your Majesty's direction, was yesterday transmitted to me, by the Lord Chancellor, and to express the unfeigned happiness, which I have derived from one part of it. I mean that, which informs me that your Majesty's confidential servants have, at length, thought proper to communicate to your Majesty, their advice, "that it is no longer necessary for your Majesty to decline receiving "me into your Royal presence." And I, therefore, humbly hope, that your Majesty will be graciously pleased to receive, with favour, the communication of my intention to avail myself, with your Majesty's permission, of that advice, for the purpose of waiting upon your Majesty on Monday next, if that day should not be inconvenient; when I hope again to have the happiness of throwing myself, in filial duty and affection, at your Majesty's feet.

Your Majesty will easily conceive, that I reluctantly name so distant a day as Monday, but I do not feel myself sufficiently recovered from the measles, to venture upon so long a drive at an earlier day. Feeling, however, very anxious, to receive again as soon as possible, that blessing, of which I have been so long de-

prived, if that day should happen to be, in any degree, inconvenient, I humbly entreat, and implore, your Majesty's most gracious and paternal goodness, to name some other day, as early as possible, for that purpose.

I am, &c.

(Signed) C. P.

To the King.

Windsor Castle,
January 29th, 1807.

THE King has this moment received the Princess of Wales's letter, in which she intimates her intention of coming to Windsor on Monday next; and his Majesty, wishing not to put the Princess to the inconvenience of coming to this place, so immmediately after her illness, hastens to acquaint her, that he shall prefer to receive her in London, upon a day subsequent to the ensuing week, which will also better suit his Majesty, and of which he will not fail to apprize the Princess.

(Signed) GEORGE. R.

To the Princess of Wales.

Windsor Castle,
February 10, 1807.

As the Princess of Wales may have been led to expect, from the King's letter to her, that he would fix an early day for seeing her, his Majesty thinks it right to acquaint her, that the Prince of Wales, upon receiving the several documents, which the King directed his Cabinet to transmit to him, made a formal communication to him, of his intention to put them into the hands of his lawyers; accompanied by a request, that his Majesty would suspend any further steps in the business, until the Prince of Wales should be enabled to submit to him, the statement which he proposed to make. The King therefore considers it incumbent upon him to defer naming a day to the Princess of Wales, until the further result of the Prince's intention shall have been made known to him.

(Signed) GEORGE. R.

To the Princess of Wales.

Montague House,
February 12th, 1807.

SIRE,

I RECEIVED yesterday, and with inexpressble pain, your Majesty's last communication. The duty of stating, in a representation to your Majesty, the various grounds, upon which I feel the hardship of my case, and upon which I confidently think that, upon a review of it, your Majesty will be disposed to recal your last determination, is a duty I owe to myself: and I cannot forbear, at the moment when I acknowledge your Majesty's letter, to announce to your Majesty, that I propose to execute that duty without delay.

After having suffered the punishment of banishment from your Majesty's presence, for seven months, pending an Inquiry, which your Majesty had directed, into my conduct, affecting both my life and my honour;—after that Inquiry had, at length terminated in the advice of your Majesty's confidential and sworn servants, that there was no longer any reason for your Majesty's declining to receive me;—after your Majesty's gracious communication, which led me to rest assured that your Majesty would appoint an early day to receive me;---if after all this, by a renewed application on the part of The Prince of Wales, upon whose communication the first Inquiry had been directed, I now find that that punishment, which had been inflicted, pending a seven month's Inquiry before the determi-

nation, should, contrary to the opinion of your Majesty's servants, be continued after that determination, to await the result of some new proceeding, to be suggested by the lawyers of the Prince of Wales; it is impossible that I can fail to assert to your Majesty, wth the effect due to truth, that I am, in the consciousness of my innocence, and with a strong sense of my unmerited sufferings,

Your Majesty's most dutiful, and most affectionate, but much injured Subject, and Daughter-in-law,

(Signed) C. P.

To the King.

SIRE,

By my short letter to Your Majesty of the 12th instant, in answer to Your Majesty's communication of the 10th, I notified my intention of representing to Your Majesty the various grounds, on which I felt the hardship of my case; and, a review of which, I confidently hoped, would dispose your Majesty to recal your determination to adjourn, to an indefinite period, my reception into your royal Presence; a determination, which, in addition to all the other pain which it brought along with it, affected me with the disappointment of hopes, which I had fondly cherished, with the most perfect confidence, because they rested on your Majesty's gracious assurance.

Independently, however, of that communica-

tion from your Majesty, I should have felt myself bound to have troubled your Majesty with much of the contents of the present letter.

Upon the receipt of the paper, which by your Majesty's commands, was transmitted to me by the Lord Chancellor, on the 28th of last month, and which communicated to me the joyful intelligence, that your Majesty was "advised, that "it was no longer necessary for you to decline "receiving me into your royal Presence," I conceived myself necessarily called upon to send an immediate answer to so much of it as respected that intelligence. I could not wait the time, which it would have required, to state those observations, which it was impossible for me to refrain from making, at some period, upon the other important particulars which that paper contained. Accordingly, I answered it immediately: and, as your Majesty's gracious and instant reply of last Thursday fortnight, announced to me your pleasure, that I should be received by your Majesty, on a day subsequent to the then ensuing week, I was led most confidently to assure myself, that the last week would not have passed, without my having received that satisfaction. I therefore determined to wait in patience, without further intrusion upon your Majesty, till I might have the opportunity of guarding myself from the possibility of being misunderstood, by personally explaining to your Majesty, that whatever observations I had to

make upon the paper so communicated to me, on the 28th ultimo, and whatever complaints respecting the delay, and the many cruel circumstances which had attended the whole of the proceedings against me, and the unsatisfactory state, in which they were at length left by that last communication, they were observations and complaints which affected those only, under whose advice your Majesty had acted, and were not, in any degree, intended to intimate even the most distant insinuation against your Majesty's justice, or kindness.

That paper established the opinion, which I, certainly, had ever confidently entertained, but the justness of which I had not before any document to establish, that your Majesty had, from the first, deemed this proceeding a high and important matter of state, in the consideration of which your Majesty had not felt yourself at liberty to trust to your own generous feelings, and to your own Royal, and gracious judgment. I never did believe, that the cruel state of anxiety, in which I had been kept, ever since the delivery of my Answer, (for at least sixteen weeks) could be at all attributable to your Majesty; it was most unlike every thing which I had ever experienced from your Majesty's condescension, feeling, and justice; and I found, from that paper, that it was to your confidential servants I was to ascribe the length of banishment from your presence, which they, at last, advised your Ma-

jesty, it was no longer necessary should be continued. I perceive, therefore, what I always believed, that it was to them, and to them only, that I owed the protracted continuance of my sufferings, and of my disgrace; and that Your Majesty, considering the whole of this proceeding to have been instituted and conducted, under the grave responsibility of Your Majesty's servants, had not thought proper to take any step, or express any opinion, upon any part of it, but such as was recommended by their advice. Influenced by these sentiments, and anxious to have the opportunity of conveying them, with the overflowings of a grateful heart, to Your Majesty, what were my sensations of surprise, mortification, and disappointment, on the receipt of Your Majesty's letter of the 10th instant, Your Majesty may conceive, though I am utterly unable to express.

That Letter announces to me, that his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, upon receiving the several documents which your Majesty directed your Cabinet to transmit to him, made a personal communication to your Majesty of his intention to put them into the hands of his Lawyers, accompanied by a request, that Your Majesty would suspend any further steps in the business, until the Prince of Wales should be enabled to submit to your Majesty the statement which he proposed to make; and it also announces to me that your Majesty therefore considered it incumbent on you, to defer

naming a day to me, until the further result of the Prince of Wales's intention should have been made known to your Majesty.

This determination of your Majesty, on this request, made by His Royal Highness, I humbly trust your Majesty will permit me to entreat you, in your most gracious justice, to reconsider. Your Majesty, I am convinced, must have been surprised at the time, and prevailed upon by the importunity of the Prince of Wales, to think this determination necessary, or your Majesty's generosity and justice would never have adopted it. And if I can satisfy your Majesty of the unparalleled injustice, and cruelty, of this interposition of the Prince of Wales, at such a time, and under such circumstances, I feel the most perfect confidence that your Majesty will hasten to recal it.

I should basely be wanting to my own interest and feelings, if I did not plainly state my sense of that injustice, and cruelty; and if I did not most loudly complain of it. Your Majesty will better perceive the just grounds of my complaint when I retrace the course of these proceedings from their commencement.

The four noble Lords, appointed by your Majesty to inquire into the charges brought against me, in their Report of the 14th of July last, after having stated that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales had laid before him, the charge which was made against me, by Lady Douglas, and the declarations in support of it, proceed in the following manner.

* "In the painful situation in which His Royal "Highness was placed by these communications, "we learnt that His Royal Highness had adopted "*the only course* which could, in our judgment, "with propriety, he followed. When inform-"ations such as these, had been thus confidently "alleged, and particularly detailed, and had been "in some degree supported by collateral evidence, "applying to other facts of the same nature, "(though going to a far less extent,) *one line only* "could be pursued.

"Every sentiment of duty to your Majesty, and "of concern for the public welfare, required that "these particulars should not be withheld from "your Majesty, to whom more particularly be-"longed the cognizance of a matter of State, so "nearly touching the honour of your Majesty's "Royal Family, and, by possibility, affecting the "succession of your Majesty's Crown.

"Your Majesty had been pleased, on your part "to view the subject in the same light. Consi-"dering it as a matter which, on every account "demanded the most immediate investigation, "your Majesty had thought fit to commit into our "hands the duty of ascertaining, in the first in-"stance what degree of credit was due to the in-"formation, and thereby enabling your Majesty "to decide what further conduct to adopt respect-"ing them."

* Report, p. 6. ante.

His Royal Highness then, pursuing, as the four Lords say, *the only course,* which could in their judgment, with propriety, be pursued, submitted the matter to Your Majesty.—Your Majesty directed the Inquiry by the four noble Lords.—The four Lords in their Report upon the case, justly acquitted me of all crime, and expressed (I will not wait now to say how unjustly) the credit which they gave, and the consequence they ascribed to other matters, which they did not, however, characterize as amounting to any crime —To this Report I made my answer.—That answer, together with the whole proceedings, was referred by your Majesty, to the same four noble Lords, and others of your Majesty's confidential servants. They advised your Majesty, amongst much other matter, (which must be the subject of further observations) that there was no longer any reason why you should decline receiving me.

Your Majesty will necessarily conceive that I have always looked upon my banishment from your Royal Presence, as, in fact, a punishment, and a severe one too. I thought it sufficiently hard, that I should have been suffering that punishment, during the time that this Inquiry has been pending, while I was yet only under accusation, and upon the principles of the just laws of your Majesty's kingdom, entitled to be presumed to be innocent, till I was proved to be guilty. But I find this does not appear to be enough, in the opinion of the Prince of Wales. For now, when

after this long Inquiry, into matters which required immediate investigation, I have been acquitted of every thing which could call for my banishment from your Royal Presence. After your Majesty's confidential servants have thus expressly advised your Majesty that they see no reason why you should any longer decline to receive me into your presence:—after your Majesty had graciously notified to me, your determination to receive me at an early day, His Royal Highness interposes the demand of a new delay; desires your Majesty not to take any step; desires you not to act upon the advice which your own confidential servants have given you, that you need no longer decline seeing me;—not to execute your intention, and assurance, that you will receive me at an early day;—because he has laid the documents before his Lawyers, and intends to prepare a further statement. And the judgment of your Majesty's confidential servants, is, as it were, appealed from by the Prince of Wales, (whom, from this time, at least, I must be permitted to consider as assuming the character of my accuser);—the justice due to me is to be suspended, while the judgment of your Majesty's sworn servants, is to be snbmitted to the revision of my accuser's Counsel; and I, though acquitted in the opinion of your Majesty's confidential servants, of all that should induce your Majesty to decline seeing me, am to have that punishment, which had been inflicted upon me, during the inquiry, continued after that acquittal, till a fresh

statement is prepared, to be again submitted, for aught I know, to another Inquiry, of as extended a continuance as that which has just terminated.

Can it be said that the proceedings of the four noble Lords, or of your Majesty's confidential servants, have been so lenient, and considerate towards me and my feelings, as to induce a suspicion that I have been too favourably dealt with by them? and that the advice which has been given to your Majesty, that your Majesty need no longer decline to receive me, was hastily and partially delivered? I am confident, that your Majesty must see the very reverse of this to be the case—that I have every reason to complain of the inexplicable delay which so long withheld that advice. And the whole character of the observations with which they accompanied it, marks the reluctance with which they yielded to the necessity of giving it.

For your Majesty's confidential servants advise your Majesty, "that it is no longer necessary for "you to decline receiving me into your Royal "Presence." If this is their opinion and their advice now, why was it not their opinion and their advice four months ago, from the date of my answer? Nay, why was it not their opinion and advice from the date even of the original Report itself? For not only had they been in possession of my answer for above *sixteen weeks*, which at least furnished them with all the materials on which this advice was at length given, but further, your Majesty's confidential servants are forward to state

that after having read my observations, and the affidavits which were annexed to them, they agree in *the opinions* (not in any single opinion upon any particular branch of the case, but in *the opinions generally*) which were submitted to your Majesty, in the original Report of the four Lords. If therefore, (notwithstanding their concurrence in *all* the opinions contained in the Report) they have nevertheless given to your Majesty their advice, "that "it is no longer necessary for you to decline re-"ceiving me," What could have prevented their offering that advice, even from the 14th of July, the date of the original Report itself? Or what could have warranted the withholding of it, even for a single moment? Instead, therefore, of any trace being observable, of hasty, precipitate, and partial determination in my favour, it is impossible to interpret their conduct and their reasons together in any other sense, than as amounting to an admission of your Majesty's confidential servants themselves, that I have, in consequence of their withholding that advice, been, unnecessarily and cruelly banished, from your Royal Presence, from that 14th of July, to the 28th of January, including a space of above six months; and the effect of the interposition of the Prince, is to prolong my sufferings, and my disgrace, under the same banishment, to a period perfectly indefinite.

The principle which will admit the effect of such interposition now, may be acted upon again; and the Prince may require a further prolongation

upon fresh statements, and fresh charges, kept back possibly for the purpose of being, from time to time, conveniently interposed, to prevent for ever, the arrival of that hour, which, displaying to the world the acknowledgment of my unmerited suffering sand disgrace, may, at the same time, expose the true malicious and unjust quality of the proceedings which have been so long carried on against me.

This unreasonable, unjust, and cruel interposition of His Royal Highness, as I must ever deem it, has prevailed upon your Majesty to recal, to my prejudice, your gracious purpose of receiving me, in pursuance of the advice of your servants. Do I then flatter myself too much, when I feel assured, that my *just* entreaty, founded upon the reasons which I urge, and directed to counteract only the effect of that *unjust* interposition, will induce your Majesty to return to your original determination?

Restored however, as I should feel myself, to a state of comparative security, as well as credit, by being, at length, permitted, upon your Majesty's gracious reconsideration of your last determination, to have access to your Majesty; yet, under all the circumstances under which I should now receive that mark and confirmation of your Majesty's opinion of my innocence, my character would not, I fear, stand cleared in the public opinion, by the mere fact of your Majesty's reception of me. This revocation of your Majesty's gracious purpose has

flung an additional cloud about the whole proceeding, and the inferences drawn in the public mind, from this circumstance, so mysterious and so perfectly inexplicable, upon any grounds which are open to their knowledge, has made, and will leave so deep an impression to my prejudice, as scarce any thing, short of a public exposure of all that has passed, can possibly efface.

The publication of all these proceedings to the world, then, seems to me, under the present circumstances, (whatever reluctance I feel against such a measure, and however I regret the hard necessity which drives me to it) to be almost the only remaining resource, for the vindication of my honour and character. The falsehood of the accusation is, by no means, all that will, by such publication, appear to the credit and clearance of my character; but the course in which the whole proceedings have been carried on, or rather delayed, by those, to whom your Majesty referred the consideration of them, will shew, that, whatever measure of justice I may have ultimately received at their hands, it is not to be suspected as arising from any merciful and indulgent consideration of me, of my feelings, or of my case.

It will be seen how my feelings had been harrassed, and my character and honour exposed, by the delays which have taken place in these proceedings: it will be seen, that the existence of the charge against me had avowedly been known to the

public, from the 7th of June in the last year.—I say known to the public, because it was on that day that the Commissioners, acting, as I am to suppose, (for so they state in their report) under the anxious wish, that their trust should be executed with as little publicity as possible, authorized that unnecessary insult and outrage upon me, as I must always consider it, which, however intended, gave the utmost publicity and exposure to the existence of these charges—I mean, the sending two Attornies, armed with their Lordships' warrant to my house, to bring before them, at once, about one half of my household for examination. The idea of privacy, after an act so much calculated, from the extraordinary nature of it, to excite the greatest attention and surprize, your Majesty must feel to have been impossible and absurd; for an attempt at secrecy, mystery, and concealment, on my part, could, under such circumstances, only have been construed into the fearfulness of guilt.

It will appear also that, from that time, I heard nothing authentically upon the subject till the 11th of August, when I was furnished, by your Majesty's commands, with the Report. The several papers necessary to my understanding the whole of these charges, in the authentic state in which your Majesty thought it proper, graciously to direct, that I should have them, were not delivered to me till the beginning of September. My answer to these various charges, though the whole subject of them was new to those whose advice I had recourse to,

long as that answer was necessarily obliged to be, was delivered to the Lord Chancellor, to be forwarded to your Majesty, by the sixth of October; and, from the 6th of October to the 28th of January, I was kept in total ignorance of the effect of that answer. Not only will all this delay be apparent, but it will be generally shewn to the world how your Majesty's servants had in this important business, treated your daughter-in-law, the Princess of Wales; and what measure of justice she, a female, and a stranger in your land, has experienced at their hands.

Undoubtedly against such a proceeding I have ever felt, and still feel, an almost invincible repugnance. Every sentiment of delicacy, with which a female mind must shrink from the act of bringing before the public such charges, however conscious of their scandal and falsity, and however clearly that scandal and falsity may be manifested by the answer to those charges; the respect still due from me, to persons employed in authority under your Majesty, however little respect I may have received from them:—My duty to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales;—my regard for all the members of your august Family;—my esteem, my duty, my gratitude to your Majesty,—my affectionate gratitude for all the paternal kindness, which I have ever experienced from you;—my anxiety, not only to avoid the risk of giving any offence or displeasure to your Majesty, but also to fly from every occasion of creating the slightest

sentiment of uneasiness in the mind of your Majesty, whose happiness it would be the pride and pleasure of my life to consult, and to promote; all these various sentiments have compelled me to submit as long as human forbearance could endure, to all the unfavourable inferences which were through this delay daily increasing in the public mind. What the strength and efficacy of these motives have been, your Majesty will do me justice to feel, when you are pleased, graciously to consider how long I have been contented to suffer those suspicions to exist against my innocence, which the bringing before the public of my accusation, and my defence to it, would so indisputably and immediately have dispelled.

The measure, however, of making these proceedings public, whatever mode I can adopt (considering especially the absolute impossibility of suffering any partial production of them, and the necessity that, if for any purpose any part of them should be produced, the whole must be brought before the public) remains surrounded with all the objections which I have enumerated; and nothing could ever have prevailed upon me, or can now even prevail upon me to have recourse to it, but an imperious sense of indispensable duty to my future safety, to my present character and honour, and to the feelings, the character, and the interests of my child. I had flattered myself, when once this long proceeding should have terminated in my reception into your Majesty's presence, that that circum-

stance alone would have so strongly implied my innocence of all that had been brought against me, as to have been perfectly sufficient for my honour and my security; but accompanied, as it now must be with the knowledge of the fact, that your Majesty has been brought to hesitate upon its propriety, and accompanied also with the very unjustifiable observations, as they appear to me, on which I shall presently proceed to remark; and which were made by your Majesty's servants, at the time when they gave you their advice to receive me; I feel myself in a situation, in which I deeply regret that I cannot rest, in silence, without an immediate reception into your Majesty's presence; nor, indeed, with that reception, unless it be attended by other circumstances, which may mark my satisfactory acquittal of the charges which have been brought against me.

It shall at no time be said, with truth, that I shrunk back from these infamous charges; that I crouched before my enemies: and courted them, by my submission into moderation! No, I have ever boldly defied them. I have ever felt and still feel, that, if they should think, either of pu suing these accusations, or of bringing forward any other which the wickedness of individuals may devise, to affect my honour; (since my conscience tells me, that they must be, as base and groundless as those broughtby Lady Douglas,) while the witnesses to the innocence of my conduct, are all living, I should be able to disprove them all; and, whoever may

be my accusers, to triumph over their wickedness and malice. But should these accusations be renewed ; or any other be brought forward, in any future time, death may, I know not how soon, remove from my innocence its best security, and deprive me of the means of my justification, and my defence.

There are therefore other measures, which I trust your Majesty will think indispensable to be taken, for my honour, and for my security. Amongst these, I most humbly submit to your Majesty my most earnest entreaties that the proceedings, including not only my first answer, and my letter of the 8th of December, but this letter also, may be directed by your Majesty to be so preserved and deposited, as that they may, all of them, securely remain pemanent authentic documents and memorials, of this accusation and of the manner in which I met it ; of my defence, as well as of the charge. That they may remain capable at any time of being resorted to, if the malice which produced the charge originally, shall ever venture to renew it.

Beyond this, I am sure your Majesty will think it but proper and just, that I should be restored, in every respect, to the same situation, from whence the proceedings, under these false charges, have removed me. That, besides being graciously received, again, into the bosom of your Majesty's Royal Family, restored to my former respect and station amongst them, your Majesty will be graciously pleased, either to exert your influence, with

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, that I may be restored to the use of my apartment in Carlton House, which was reserved for me, except while the apartments were undergoing repair, till the date of these proceedings; or to assign to me some apartment in one of your Royal Palaces. Some apartment in or near to London is indispensably necessary for my convenient attendance at the Drawing-room. And if I am not restored to that at Carlton House, I trust your Majesty will gracious perceive, how reasonable it is, that I should request, that some apartment should be assigned to me, suited to my dignity and situation, which may mark my reception and acknowledgment, as one of your Majesty's family, and from which my attendance at the drawing-room may be easy and convenient.

If these measures are taken, I should hope that they would prove satisfactory to the public mind, and that I may feel myself fully restored in public estimation, to my former character. And should they prove so satisfactory, I shall indeed be delighted to think, that no further step may, even now, appear to be necessary to my peace of mind, my security, and my honour.

But your Majesty will permit me to say, that if the next week, which will make more than a month from the time of your Majesty's informing me that you would receive me, should pass without my being received into your presence, and without having the assurance that these other request of

mine shall be complied with; I shall be under the painful necessity of considering them as refused. In which case, I shall feel myself compelled, however reluctantly, to give the whole of these proceedings to the world. Unless your Majesty can suggest other adequate means of securing my honour and my life, from the effect of the continuance or renewal of these proceedings, for the future, as well as the present. For I entreat your Majesty to believe, that it is only in the absence of all other adequate means, that I can have resort to that measure. That I consider it with deep regret; that I regard it with serious apprehension, by no means so much on account of the effect it may have upon myself; as on account of the pain which it may give to your Majesty, your august Family, and your loyal subjects.

As far as myself am concerned, I am aware of the observations to which this publication will expose me. But I am placed in a situaion in which I have the choice only of two most unpleasant alternatives. And I am perfectly confident that the imputations and the loss of character which must, under these circumstances, follow from my silence, are most injurious and unavoidable; that my silence, under such circumstances, must lead inevitably to my utter infamy and ruin. The publication, on the other hand, will expose to the world nothing, which is spoken to by any witness (whose infamy and discredit is not unanswerably exposed and establish-

ed) which can, in the slightest degree, affect my character, for honour, virtue, and delicacy.

There may be circumstances disclosed, manifesting a degree of condescension and familiarity in my behaviour and conduct, which in the opinions of many, may be considered as not sufficiently guarded, dignified, and reserved. Circumstances however which my foreign education, and foreign habits, misled me to think, in the humble and retired situation in which it was my fate to live, and where I had no relation, no equal, no friend to advise me, were wholly free from offence. But when they have been dragged forward, from the scenes of private life, in a grave proceeding on a charge of High Treason, and Adultery, they seem to derive a colour and character, from the nature of the charge, which they are brought forward to support. And I cannot but believe, that they have been used for no other purpose than to afford a cover, to screen from view the injustice of that charge; that they have been taken advantage of, to let down my accusers more gently; and to deprive me of that full acquittal on the Report of the four Lords, which my innocence of all offence most justly entitled me to receive.

Whatever opinion however may be formed, upon any part of my conduct, it must in justice be formed, with reference to the situation in which I was placed; if I am judged of as Prin-

cess of Wales, with reference to the high rank of that station, I must be judged as Princess of Wales, banished from the Prince, unprotected by the support and the countenance, which belong to that station; and if I am judged of in my private character, as a married woman, I must be judged of as a wife banished from her husband, and living in a widowed seclusion from him, and retirement from the world. This last consideration leads me to recur to an expression in Mrs. Lisle's examination, which describes my conduct, in the frequency and the manner of my receiving the visits of Captain Manby, though always in the presence of my ladies, as unbecoming a married woman. Upon the extreme injustice of setting up the *opinion* of one woman, as it were, in judgment upon the conduct of another; as well as of estimating the conduct of a person in my unfortunate situation, by reference to that, which might in general be expected from a married woman, living happily with her husband, I have before generally remarked. But beyond these general remarks in forming any estimate of my conduct, your Majesty will never forget the very peculiar circumstances and misfortunes of my situation. Your Majesty will remember that I had not been much above a year in this country, when I received the following letter from his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

"*Windsor Castle,*
April 30, 1796.

"MADAM,

"As Lord Cholmondely informs me that you "wish I would define, in writing,* the terms "upon which we are to live, I shall endea- "vour to explain myself upon that head, with "as much clearness, and with as much pro- "priety, as the nature of the subject will admit. "Our inclinations are not in our power, nor "should either of us be held answerable to the "other, because nature has not made us suit- "able to each other. Tranquil and comfortable "society is however in our power; let our "intercourse therefore be restricted to that, and "I will distinctly subscribe to the condition† "which you required, through Lady Cholmon- "deley, that even in the event of any accident "happening to my daughter, which I trust "Providence in its mercy will avert, I shall "not infringe the terms of the restriction by

* The substance of this letter had been previously conveyed in a message through Lord Cholmondeley to her Royal Highness. But it was thought by her Royal Highness, to be infinitely too important to rest merely upon a verbal communication, and therefore she desired that his Royal Highness's pleasure upon it should be communicated to her in writing.

† Upon the receipt of the message alluded to, in the foregoing note, her Royal Highness, though she had nothing to do but to submit to the arrangement which his Royal Highness might determine upon, desired it might be understood, that she should insist that any such arrangement, if once made, should be considered as final. And that his Royal Highness should not retain the right, from time to time, at his pleasure, or under any circumstances, to alter it.

" proposing at any period, a connection of a
" more particular nature. I shall now finally
" close this disagreeable correspondence, trust-
" ing that, as we have completely explained
" ourselves to each other, the rest of our lives
" will be passed in uninterrupted tranquillity.

" I am, Madam,

" With great truth,

" Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) " GEORGE P."

And that to this letter I sent the following answer:

" L'aveu de votre conversation avec Lord
" Cholmondely, ne m'étonne, ni ne m'offense.
" C'étoit me confirmer ce que vous m'avez
" tacitement insinué depuis une année. Mais il
" y aurout après cela, un manque de delicatesse
" ou, pour mieux dire, une bassesse indigne de
" me plaindre des conditions, que vous vous
" imposez a vous même.

" Je ne vous aurois point fait de reponse, si
" votre lettre n'étoit conçue de maniere à faire
" douter, si cet arrangement vient de vous, ou de
" moi ; et vous sçavez que vous m'annoncez
" l'honneur. La lettre que vous m'annoncez
" comme la derniere, m'oblige de communiquer
" au Roy, comme à mon Souverain, et à mon
" Pere, votre aveu et ma reponse. Vous trouve-
" rez çi incluse la copie de celle que j'ecris au
" Roy. Je vous en previens pour ne pas m'atti-
" rer de votre part la moindre reproche de dupli-

"cité. Comme je n'ai dans ce moment, d'autre
"protecteur que Sa Majesté, je m'en rapporte
"uniquement à lui. Et si ma conduite merite
"son approbation, je serai, du moins en partie,
"consoleé.

"Du reste, je conserve toute la reconnoissance
"possible de ce que je me trouve par votre
"moyen, comme Princesse de Galles, dans une
"situation a pouvoir me livrer sans contrainte, à
"une vertu chere à mon cœur, je vieux dire la
"bienfaisance. Ce sera pour moi un devoir d'agir
"de plus par un autre motif sçavoir celui de don-
"ner l'exemple dela patience, et dela resignation
"dans toutes sortes d'epreuves. Rendez moi la
"justice de me croire, que je ne cesserai jamais
"de faire des vœux pour votre bonheur, et
"d'être votre bien devouée"*

(Signed) "CAROLINE."

"Ce 6 de May, 1796."

* TRANSLATION.

The avowal of your conversation with Lord Cholmondely, neither surprises, nor offends me. It merely confirmed what you have tacitly insinuated for this twelve month. But after this, it would be a want of delicacy, or rather an unworthy meanness in me, were I to complain of those conditions which you impose upon yourself.

I should have returned no answer to your letter, if it had not been conceived in terms to make it doubtful, whether this arrangement proceeds from you or from me, and you are aware that the credit of it belongs to you alone.

The letter which you announce to me as the last, obliges me to communicate to the King, as to my Sovereign and my Father, both your avowal and my answer. You will find enclosed the copy of my letter to the King. I apprise you of it, that I may not incur the slightest reproach of duplicity from you. As I have at this moment no protector but His Majesty,

The date of his Royal Highness's letter is the 30th of April, 1796. The date of our marriage, your Majesty will recollect, is the 8th day of April, in the year 1795, and that of the birth of our only child the 7th January, 1796.

On the letter of his Royal Highness I offer no comment. I only entreat your Majesty not to understand me to introduce it, as affording any supposed justification or excuse, for the least departure from the strictest line of virtue, or the slightest deviation from the most refined delicacy. The crime, which has been insinuated against me, would be equally criminal and detestable; the indelicacy imputed to me would be equally odious and abominable, whatever renunciation of conjugal authority and affection, the above letter of his Royal Highness might in any construction of it be supposed to have conveyed. Such crimes, and faults, derive not their guilt from the consideration of the conjugal virtues of the individual, who may be the most injured by them, however much such

I refer myself solely to him upon this subject, and if my conduct meets his approbation, I shall be in some degree at least consoled. I retain every sentiment of gratitude for the situation in which I find myself, as Princess of Wales, enabled by your means, to indulge in the free exercise of a virtue dear to my heart, I mean charity.

It will be my duty likewise to act upon another motive, that of giving an example of patience and resignation under every trial.

Do me the justice to believe that I shall never cease to pray for your happiness, and to be,

Your much devoted
CAROLINE.

6 of May, 1796.

virtues may aggravate their enormity. No such letter, therefore, in any construction of it, no renunciation of conjugal affection or duties, could ever palliate them. But whether conduct free from all crime, free from all indelicacy, (which I maintain to be the character of the conduct to which Mrs. Lisle's observations apply,) yet possibly not so measured, as a cautious wife, careful to avoid the slightest appearance, of not preferring her husband to all the world, might be studious to observe. Whether conduct of such description, and possibly, in such sense, not becoming a married woman, could be justly deemed, in my situation, an offence in me, I must leave to your Majesty to determine.

In making that determination, however, it will not escape your Majesty to consider, that the conduct which does or does not become a married woman materially depends upon what is, or is not known by her to be agreeable to her husband. His pleasure and happiness ought unquestionably to be her law; and his approbation the most favourite object of her pursuit. Different characters of men, require different modes of conduct in their wives, but when a wife can no longer be capable of perceiving from time to time, what is agreeable or offensive to her husband, when her conduct can no longer contribute to his happiness, no longer hope to be rewarded by his approbation, surely to examine that conduct by the standard of what ought in

general, to be the conduct of a married woman, is altogether unreasonable and unjust.

What then is my case? Your Majesty will do me the justice to remark, that, in the above letter of the Prince of Wales, there is not the most distant surmise, that crime, that vice, that indelicacy of any description, gave occasion to his determination; and all the tales of infamy and discredit, which the inventive malice of my enemies, has brought forward on these charges, have their date, years, and years, after the period to which I am now alluding. What then, let me repeat the question, is my case? After the receipt of the above letter, and in about two years from my arrival in this country, I had the misfortune entirely to lose the support, the countenance, the protection of my husband—I was banished, as it were, into a sort of humble retirement, at a distance from him, and almost estranged from the whole of the Royal Family. I had no means of having recourse, either for society or advice, to those, from whom my inexperience could have best received the advantages of the one, and with whom I could, most becomingly, have enjoyed the comforts of the other; and if in this retired, unassisted, unprotected state, without the check of a husband's authority, without the benefit of his advice, without the comfort and support of the society of his family, a stranger to the habits and fashions of this country, I should,

in any instance, under the influence of foreign habits, and foreign education, have observed a conduct, in any degree deviating from the reserve and severity of British manners, and partaking of a condescension and familiarity which that reserve and severity would, perhaps, deem beneath the dignity of my exalted rank, I feel confident, (since such deviation will be seen to have been ever consistent with perfect innocence), that not only your Majesty's candour and indulgence, but the candour and indulgence, which, notwithstanding the reserve and severity of British manners, always belong to the British Public, will never visit it with severity or censure.

It remains for me now to make some remarks upon the further contents of the paper, which was transmitted to me by the Lord Chancellor on the 28th ult. And I cannot in passing, omit to remark, that that paper has neither title, date, signature, nor attestation; and unless the Lord Chancellor had accompanied it with a note, stating that it was copied in his own hand from the original, which his Lordship had received from your Majesty, I should have been at a loss to have perceived any single mark of authenticity belonging to it, and as it is, I am wholly unable to discover what is the true character which does belong to it. It contains, indeed, the advice which your Majesty's servants have offered to your Majesty, and the message which, according to that advice, your Majesty directed to be delivered to me.

Considering it therefore, wholly as their act, your Majesty will excuse and pardon me, if, deeply injured as I feel myself to have been by them, I express myself with freedom upon their conduct. I may speak perhaps with warmth, because I am provoked by a sense of gross injustice, I shall speak certainly with firmness and with courage, because I am emboldened by a sense of conscious innocence.

Your Majesty's confidential servants say, "they agree in the opinions of the four Lords," and they say this, "after the fullest considera-"tion of my observations, and of the affidavits "which were annexed to them." Some of these opinions, your Majesty will recollect, are, that "William Cole, Fanny Lloyd, Robert Bidgood, "and Mrs. Lisle are witnesses who cannot," in the judgment of the four Lords, "be suspected "of any unfavourable bias;" and "whose veracity "in this respect they had seen no ground to question;" and "that the circumstances to which they "speak, particularly as relating to Captain Man-"by, must be credited until they are decisively "contradicted." Am I then to understand your Majesty's confidential servants to mean, that they agree with the four Noble Lords in these opinions? Am I to understand, that, after having read with the fullest consideration, the observations, which I have offered to your Majesty; after having seen William Cole there proved to have submitted himself, five times at least, to

private, unauthorised, voluntary examination by Sir John Douglas's Solicitor, for the express purpose of confirming the statement of Lady Douglas, (of that Lady Douglas, whose statement and deposition they are convinced to be so malicious and false, that they propose to institute such prosecution against her, as your Majesty's Law Officers may advise, upon a reference, now at length, after six months from the detection of that malice and falsehood, intended to be made)—after having seen this William Cole, submitting to such repeated voluntary examinations for such a purpose, and although he was all that time a servant on my establishment, and eating my bread, yet never once communicating to me, that such examinations were going on---am I to understand, that your Majesty's confidential servants agree with the four Lords in thinking, that he cannot, under such circumstances, *be suspected of unfavourable bias?* That after having had pointed out to them the direct, flat contradiction between the same William Cole and Fanny Lloyd, they nevertheless agree to think them both (though in direct contradiction to each other, *yet both*) witnesses, *whose veracity they see no ground to question?* After having seen Fanny Lloyd directly and positively contradicted, in an assertion, most injurious to my honour, by Mr. Mills and Mr. Edmeades, do they agree in opinion with the four Noble Lords, that they see *no ground to question their veracity?*—After having read the

observations on Mr. Bidgood's evidence: after having seen, that he had the hardihood to swear, that he believed Captain Manby slept in my house, at Southend, and to insinuate that he slept in my bed-room; after having seen that he founded himself on this most false fact, and most foul and wicked insinuation, upon the circumstance of observing a bason and some towels where he thought they ought not to be placed; after having seen that this fact, and this insinuation were disproved before the four noble Lords themselves, by two maid-servants, who, at that time, lived with me at Southend, and whose duties about my person and my apartments, must have made them acquainted with this fact, as asserted, or as insinuated, if it had happened; after having observed too, in confirmation of their testimony, that one of them mentioned the name of another female servant (who was not examined), who had, from her situation, equal means of knowledge with themselves--- I ask whether, after all this decisive weight of contradiction to Robert Bidgood's testimony, I am to understand your Majesty's confidential servants to agree with the four Noble Lords in thinking, that Mr. Bidgood is a witness, who *cannot be suspected* of unfavourable bias, and that there is no ground *to question his veracity?* If, Sire, I were to go through all the remarks of this description, which occur to me to make, I should be obliged to repeat nearly all my former observations, and to make this letter as long as my original answer: but

to that answer I confidently appeal, and I will venture to challenge your Majesty's confidential servants to find a single impartial, and honourable man, unconnected in feeling and interest with the parties, and unconnected in Council, with those who have already pledged themselves to an opinion upon this subject, who will lay his hand upon his heart, and say that these three witnesses, on whom that Report so mainly relies, are not to be suspected of the grossest partiality, and that their veracity is not most fundamentally impeached.

Was it then noble, was it generous, was it manly, was it just, in your Majesty's confidential servants, instead of fairly admitting the injustice, which had been, inadvertently, and unintentionally, no doubt, done to me, by the four Noble Lords in their Report, upon the evidence of these witnesses, to state to your Majesty, that they agree with these Noble Lords in their opinion, though they cannot, it seems, go the length of agreeing any longer to withhold the advice, which restores me to your Majesty's presence? And with respect to the particulars to my prejudice, remarked upon in the Report as those "which justly deserve the most "serious consideration, and which must be credited "till decisively contradicted," instead of fairly avowing, either that there was originally no pretence for such a remark, or that, if there had been originally, yet that my answer had given that decisive contradiction which was sufficient to discredit them; instead, I say, of acting this just, honest,

and open, part, to take no notice whatsoever of those contradictions, and content themselves with saying, that " none of the facts or allegations " stated in preliminary examinations, carried on " in the absence of the parties interested, could " be considered as *legally* or *conclusively* esta- " blished ?"

They agree in the opinion that the facts or allegations, though stated in preliminary examination, carried on in the absence of the parties interested, *must be credited till decisively contradicted, and deserve the most serious consideration.* They read, with the fullest consideration, the contradiction which I have tendered to them; they must have known, that no other sort of contradiction could, by possibility, from the nature of things, have been offered upon such subjects: They do not question the truth, they do not point out the insufficiency of the contradiction, but, in loose, general, indefinite, terms, referring to my answer, consisting, as it does, of above two hundred written pages, and coupling it with those examinations (which they admit establish nothing against an absent party) they advise your Majesty, that " there appear " many circumstances of conduct, which could not " be regarded by your Majesty without serious " concern;" and that, as to all the other facts and allegations, except those relative to my pregnancy and delivery, they are not to be considered as " *legally and conclusively established,*" because spoken to in preliminary examinations, not carried

on in the presence of the parties concerned. They do not, indeed, expressly assert, that my contradiction was not decisive or satisfactory; they do not expressly state, that they think the facts and allegations want nothing towards their legal and conclusive establishment, but a re-examination in the presence of the parties interested, but they go far to imply such opinions. That those opinions are utterly untenable, against the observations I have made, upon the credit and character of those witnesses, I shall ever most confidently maintain; but that those observations leave their credit wholly unaffected, and did not deserve the least notice from your Majesty's servants, it is impossible that any honourable man can assert, or any fair and unprejudiced mind believe.

I now proceed, Sire, to observe, very shortly, upon the advice further given to your Majesty as contained in the remaining part of the paper; which has represented that, both in the examinations, and even in my answer there have appeared many circumstances of conduct which could not be regarded but with serious concern, and which have suggested the expression of a desire and expectation, that such a conduct may in future, be observed by me, as may fully justify these marks of paternal regard and affection, which your Majesty wishes to shew to all your Royal Family.

And here, Sire, your Majesty will graciously permit me to notice the hardship of the advice, which has suggested to your Majesty, to convey to me

this reproof. I complain not so much for what it does, as for what it does not contain; I mean the absence of all particular mention of what it is, that is the object of their blame. The circumstances of conduct which appear in these examinations, and in my answer to which they allude as those which may be supposed to justify the advice, which has led to this reproof, since your Majesty's servants have not particularly mentioned them, I cannot be certain that I know. But I will venture confidently to repeat the assertion, which I have already made, that there are no circumstances of conduct spoken to by any witness, (whose infamy and discredit are not unanswerably exposed, and established,) nor any where apparent in my answer which have the remotest approach, either to crime or to indelicacy.

For my future conduct, Sire, impressed with every sense of gratitude for all former kindness, I shall be bound unquestionably, by sentiment as well as duty, to study your Majesty's pleasure. Any advice which your Majesty may wish to give to me in respect of any particulars in my conduet, I shall be bound, and be anxious to obey as my law. But I must trust that your Majesty will point out to me the particulars, which may happen to displease you, and which you may wish to have altered. I shall be as happy, in thus feeling myself safe from blame under the benefit of your Majesty's advice, as I am now in finding myself secured from danger, under the protection of your justice

Your Majesty will permit me to add one word more.

Your Majesty has seen what detriment my character has, for a time, sustained, by the false and malicious statement of Lady Douglas, and by the depositions of the witnesses who were examined in support of her statement. Your Majesty has seen how many enemies I have, and how little their malice has been restrained by any regard to truth in the pursuit of my ruin. Few, as it may be hoped, may be the instances of such determined, and unprovoked, malignity, yet, I cannot flatter myself, that the world does not produce other persons, who may be swayed by similar motives to similar wickedness. Whether the statement to be prepared by the Prince of Wales, is to be confined to the old charges, or is intended to bring forward new circumstances, I cannot tell; but if any fresh attempts of the same nature shall be made by my accusers, instructed as they will have been, by their miscarriage in this instance, I can hardly hope that they will not renew their charge, with an improved artifice, more skilfully directed, and with a malice, inflamed rather than abated, by their previous disappointment. I therefore can only appeal to your Majesty's justice, in which I confidently trust, that whether these charges are to be renewed against me either on the old or on fresh evidence; or whether new accusations, as well as new witnesses, are to be brought forward, your Majesty, after the experi-

ence, of these proceedings, will not suffer your Royal mind to be prejudiced by *ex parte*, secret examinations, nor my character to be whispered away by insinuations, or suggestions which I have no opportunity of meeting. If any charge, which the law will recognize, should be brought against me in an open and legal manner, I should have no right to complain, nor any apprehension to meet it. But till I may have a full opportunity of so meeting it, I trust your Majesty will not suffer it to excite even a suspicion to my prejudice. I must claim the benefit of the presumption of innocence till I am proved to be guilty, for, without that presumption, against the effects of secret insinuation and *ex parte* examinations, the purest innocence can make no defence, and can have no security.

Surrounded, as it is now proved, that I have been, for years, by domestic spies, your Majesty must, I trust, feel convinced, that if I had been guilty there could not have been wanting evidence to have proved my guilt. And that these spies have been obliged to have resort to their own invention, for the support of the charge, is the strongest demonstration that the truth, undisguised, and correctly represented, could furnish them with no handle against me. And when I consider the nature and malignity of that conspiracy, which, I feel confident I have completely detected and exposed, I cannot but think of that detection, with the liveliest gratitude, as the special blessing of Pro-

vidence, who, by confounding the machinations of my enemies, has enabled me to find, in the very excess and extravagance of their malice, in the very weapons, which they fabricated and sharpened for my destruction, the sufficient guard to my innocence, and the effectual means of my justification and defence.

I trust therefore, Sire, that I may now close this long letter, in confidence that many days will not elapse before I shall receive from your Majesty, that assurance that my just requests may be so completely granted, as may render it possible for me (which nothing else can) to avoid the painful disclosure to the world of all the circumstances of that injustice, and of those unmerited sufferings, which these proceedings, in the manner in which they have been conducted, have brought upon me.

I remain,

Sire,

With every sentiment of gratitude,

Your Majesty's most dutiful,

most submissive Daughter-in-law,

Subject and Servant,

(Signed) C. P.

Montague House,

February 16, 1807.

As these observations apply not only to the official communication through the Lord Chan-

cellor, of the 28th ult.; but also to the private letterof your Majesty, of the 12th instant, I have thought it most respectful to your Majesty and your Majesty's servants, to send this letter in duplicate, one part through Colonel Taylor, and the other through the Lord Chancellor, to your Majesty.

(Signed) C. P.

To the King.

SIRE,

When I last troubled your Majesty upon my unfortunate business, I had raised my mind to hope, that I should have the happiness of hearing from your Majesty, and receiving your gracious commands, to pay my duty in your Royal presence, before the expiration of the last week. And when that hope was disappointed, (eagerly clinging to any idea, which offered me a prospect of being saved from the necessity of having recourse, for the vindication of my character, to the publication of the proceedings upon the Inquiry into my Conduct,) I thought it just possible, that the reason for my not having received your Majesty's commands to that effect, might have been occasioned by the circumstance of your Majesty's staying at Windsor through the whole of the week. I, therefore,

determined to wait a few days longer, before I took a step, which, when once taken, could not be recalled. Having, however, now assured myself, that your Majesty was in town yesterday—as I have received no command to wait upon your Majesty, and no intimation of your pleasure—I am reduced to the necessity of abandoning all hope, that your Majesty will comply with my humble, my earnest, and anxious requests.

Your Majesty therefore, will not be surprised to find, that the publication of the Proceedings alluded to, will not be withheld beyond Monday next.

As to any consequences which may arise from such publication, unpleasant or hurtful to my own feelings and interests, I may, perhaps, be properly responsible; and, in any event, have no one to complain of but myself, and those with whose advice I have acted; and whatever those consequences may be, I am fully and unalterably convinced, that they must be incalculably less than those, which I should be exposed to from my silence: But as to any other consequences, unpleasant or hurtful to the feelings and interests of others, or of the public, my conscience will certainly acquit me of them;—I am confident that I have not acted impatiently, or precipitately. To avoid coming to this painful extremity I have taken every step in my power, except that which

would be abandoning my character to utter infamy, and my station and life to no uncertain danger, and possibly, to no very distant destruction.

With every prayer, for the lengthened continuance of your Majesty's health and happiness; for every possible blessing, which a Gracious God can bestow upon the beloved Monarch of a loyal People; and for the continued prosperity of your dominions, under your Majesty's propitious reign,

I remain,

Your Majesty's

Most dutiful, loyal, and affectionate,

but most unhappy, and most injured

Daughter-in-Law, Subject, and Servant.

C. P.

Montague House, March 5, 1807.

To the King.

APPENDIXES

APPENDIX (A).

(No. 1.)

GEORGE R.

WHEREAS Our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor Thomas Lord Erskine, Our Chancellor, has this day laid before Us an Abstract of certain written Declarations touching the Conduct of Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales: We do hereby authorize, empower, and direct, the said Thomas Lord Erskine, Our Chancellor; Our right trusty and right well beloved Cousin and Councillor George John Earl Spencer, one of Our Principal Secretaries of State; Our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor William Wyndham Lord Grenville, First Commissioner of Our Treasury; and Our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor Edward Lord Ellenborough, Our Chief Justice to hold Pleas before Ourself, to inquire into the truth of the same, and to examine upon oath such Persons as they shall see fit, touching and concerning the same, and to report to Us the result of such Examinations.

Given at Our Castle of Windsor, on the twenty-ninth day of May, in the forty-sixth year of Our Reign.

G. R.

A true Copy,
J. Becket.

(No. 2.)

The Deposition of Charlotte Lady Douglas.

I THINK I first became acquainted with the Princess of Wales in 1801. Sir John Douglas had a house at Blackheath. One day in November, 1801, the snow was lying on the ground; the Princess and a Lady, who I believe was Miss Heyman, came on foot and walked several times before the door. Lady Stewart was with me, and said she thought the Princess wanted something, and that I ought to go to her. I went to her; she said she did not want any thing, but she would walk in; that I had a very pretty little girl. She came in, and staid some time. About a fortnight after, Sir John Douglas and I received an invitation to go to Montague House. After that I was very frequently at Montague House, and dined there; the Princess dined frequently with us. About May or June, 1802, the Princess first talked with me about her own conduct. Sir Sidney Smith, who had been Sir John's friend for more than twenty years, came to England about November, 1801, and came to live in our house. I understood that the Princess knew Sir Sidney Smith before she was Princess of Wales. The Princess saw Sir Sidney Smith as frequently as ourselves. We were usually kept at Montague House later than the rest of the party; often till three or four o'clock in the morning. I never observed any impropriety of conduct between Sir Sidney Smith and the Princess. I made the Princess a visit to Montague House in March, 1802, for about a fortnight. She desired me to come there because Miss Garth was ill. In May or June following, the Princess came to my house alone; she said she came to tell me something that had happened to her, and desired me to guess. I guessed several things, and at last I said I

could not guess any thing more. She then said that she was pregnant, and that the child had come to life. I don't know whether she said on that day, or a few days before, that she was at breakfast at Lady Willoughby's, that the milk flowed up to her breast, and came through her gown; that she threw a napkin over herself, and went with Lady Willoughby into her room and adjusted herself, to prevent its being observed. She never told me who was the father of the child. She said she hoped it would be a boy. She said, that if it was discovered, she would give the Prince of Wales the credit of being the father, for she had slept two nights at Carlton House within the year. I said that I should go abroad to my Mother. The Princess said that she should manage it very well; and if things came to the worst, she would give the Prince the credit of it. While I was at Montague House in March, I was with child, and one day I said that I was very sick, and the Princess desired Mrs. Sander to get me a saline draught. She then said that she was very sick herself, and that she would take a saline draught too. I observed that she could not want one, and I looked at her. The Princess said, Yes, I do; what do you look at me for, with your wicked eyes? you are always finding me out. Mrs. Sander looked very much distressed; she gave us a saline draught each. This was the first time that I had any suspicion of her being with child. The Princess never said who was the father. When she first told me she was with child, I rather suspected that Sir Sidney was the father, but only because the Princess was very partial to him. I never knew that he was with her alone. We had constant intercourse with the Princess, from the time when I was at Montague House till the end of October. After that she had first communicated to me that she was with child, she frequently spoke upon the subject. She was bled twice during the time. She recommended to me to be bled too, and said that it made

you have a better time. Mr. Edmeades bled her. She said one of the days that Mr. Edmeades bled her, that she had a violent heat in her blood, and that Mr. Edmeades should bleed her. I told the Princess I was very anxious how she would manage to be brought to bed without its being known; that I hoped she had a safe person. She said yes, she should have a person from abroad; that she had a great horror of having any man about her on such an occasion. She said, "I am confident in my own plans, and I wish you would not speak with me on that subject again." She said, "I shall tell every thing to Sander." I think this was on the day on which she told me of what had happened at Lady Willoughby's. That Sander was a very good woman, and might be trusted, and that she must be with her at the labour; that she would send Miss Gouch to Brunswick; and Miss Millfield was too young to be trusted, and must be sent out of the way. I was brought to bed on the 23d of July, 1802; the Princess insisted on being present; I determined that she should not, but I meant to avoid it without offending her. On the day on which I was brought to bed, she came to my house, and insisted on coming in; Dr. Mackie, who attended me, locked the door, and said she should not come in; but there was another door on the opposite side of the room, which was not locked, and she came in that door, and was present during the time of the labour, and took the child as soon as it was born, and said that she was very glad that she had seen the whole of it. The Princess's pregnancy appeared to me to be very visible; she wore a cushion behind, and she made Miss Sander make one for me. During my lying-in, the Princess came one day with Mrs. Fitzgerald; she sent Mrs. Fitzgerald away, and took a chair and sat by my bedside. She said, "You will hear of my taking children in baskets, but you wont take any notice of it; I shall have them brought by a poor woman

in a basket; I shall do it as a cover to have my own brought to me in that way," or, "that is the way in which I must have my own brought when I have it." Very soon after this, two children, who were twins, were brought by a poor woman, in a basket. The Princess took them and had them carried up into her room, and the Princess washed them herself. The Princess told me this herself. The father, a few days afterwards, came and insisted upon having the children, and they were given to him. The Princess afterwards said to me, You see I took the children, and it answered very well; the father had got them back, and she could not blame him; that she should take other children, and should have quite a nursery. I saw the Princess on a Sunday, either the 30th or 31st of October, 1802, walking before her door. She was dressed so as to conceal her pregnancy; she had a long cloak and a very great muff. She had just returned from Greenwich Church; she looked very ill, and I thought must be very near her time. About a week, or nine or ten days after this, I received a note from the Princess, to desire that I would not come to Montague House, for they were apprehensive that the children she had taken had had the measles in their clothes, and that she was afraid my child might take it. When the Princess came to see me during my lying in, she told me, that when she should be brought to bed, she wished I would not come to her for some time, for she might be confused in seeing me. About the end of December I went to Gloucestershire, and stayed there about a month. When I returned, which was in January, I went to Montague House, and was let in. The Princess was packing up something in a black box. Upon the sofa a child was lying, covered with a piece of red cloth. The Princess got up and took me by the hand; she then led me to the sofa, and said, "There is the child, I had him only two days after I saw you." The words were, either, "I had him," or, "I was brought

to bed." The words were such as clearly imported that it was her own child. She said she got very well through it. She shewed me a mark on the child's hand; it is a pink mark. The Princess said, "she has a mark like your little girl." I saw the child afterwards frequently with the Princess, quite till Christmas, 1803, when I left Blackheath. I saw the mark upon the child's hand, and I am sure that it was the same child. I never saw any other child there. Princess Charlotte used to see the child, and play with him. The child used to call the Princess of Wales Mamma. I saw the child looking at the window of the Princess's house about a month ago, before the Princess went into Devonshire, and I am sure that it was the same child. Not long after I had first seen the child, the Princess said that she had the child at first to sleep with her for a few nights, but it made her nervous, and now they had got a regular nurse for her. She said, "We gave it a little milk at first, but it was too much for me, and now we breed it by hand, and it does very well." I can swear positively that the child I saw at the window is the same child as the Princess told me she had two days after she parted with me. The child was called William. I never heard that it had any other name. When the child was in long clothes, we breakfasted one day with the Princess, and she said to Sir John Douglas, "This is the Deptford boy." Independently of the Princess's confessions to me, I can swear that she was pregnant in 1802. In October, 1804, when we returned from Devonshire, I left my card at Montague House, and on the 4th of October I received a letter from Mrs. Vernon, desiring me not to come any more to Montague House. I had never at this time mentioned the Princess's being with child, or being delivered of a child, to any person, not even to Sir John Douglas. After receiving Mrs. Vernon's letter, I wrote to the Princess on the subject. The letter was sent back unopened. I then wrote to Mrs. Fitzgerald, saying

that I thought myself extremely ill-used. In two or three days after this I received an anonymous letter, which I produce; and have marked with the letter A,* and signed with my name both on the letter and the envelope. The Princess of Wales has told me that she got a bedfellow whenever she could; that nothing was more wholesome. She said that nothing was more convenient than her room; it stands at the head of the staircase which leads into the Park, and I have bolts in the inside, and have a bedfellow whenever I like. I wonder you can be satisfied only with Sir John." She has said this more than once. She has told me that Sir Sidney Smith had lain with her; that she believed all men liked a bedfellow, but Sir Sidney better than any body else; that the Prince was the most complaisant man in the world; that she did what she liked, went where she liked, and had what bedfellows she liked, and the Prince paid for all.

CHARLOTTE DOUGLAS.

June 1, 1806.

Sworn before us, June 1, 1806, at Lord Grenville's, in Downing-street, Westminster.

ERSKINE,
SPENCER,
GRENVILLE,
ELLENBOROUGH.

A true Copy,
J. Becket.

* No copy of this letter has been sent to her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales.

(No. 3.)

The Deposition of Sir John Douglas, Knt.

I HAD a house at Blackheath in 1801. Sir Sidney used to come to my house. I had a bed for him. The Princess of Wales formed an acquaintance with Lady Douglas, and came frequently to our house. I thought she came more for Sir Sidney Smith than for us. After she had been some time acquainted with us, she appeared to me to be with child. One day she leaned on the sofa, and put her hand upon her stomach, and said, "Sir John, I shall never be queen of England." I said, "Not if you don't deserve it." She seemed angry at first. In 1804, on the 27th of October, I received two letters by the twopenny post, one addressed to me, which I now produce, and have marked with the letter (B)* both on the envelope and the inclosure, and the other letter addressed to Lady Douglas, and which I now produce, and have marked with the letter (C)* both on the envelope and the inclosure.

(Signed) JOHN DOUGLAS.

June 1st.

Sworn before us, at Lord Grenville's house, in Downing-street, Westminster, June 1st, 1806.

ERSKINE,
SPENCER,
GRENVILLE,
ELLENBOROUGH.

A true Copy,
J. Becket.

* No copy of these letters, or either of them, has been sent to her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales.

(No. 4.)

The Deposition of Robert Bidgood.

I HAVE lived with the Prince twenty-three years in next September. I went to the Princess in March, 1798, and have lived with her Royal Highness ever since. About the year 1802, early in that year, I first observed Sir Sidney Smith come to Montague House. He used to stay very late at night. I have seen him early in the morning there, about ten or eleven o'clock. He was at Sir John Douglas's, and was in the habit, as well as Sir John and Lady Douglas, of dining or having luncheon, or supping there almost every day. I saw Sir Sidney Smith one day in 1802, in the blue room, about eleven o'clock in the morning, which is full two hours before we expected ever to see company. I asked the servants why they did not let me know that he was there. The footmen informed me that they had let no person in. There was a private door to the Park by which he might have come in if he had a key to it, and have got into the blue room without any of the servants perceiving him. I never observed any appearance of the Princess, which could lead me to suppose she was with child. I first observed Captain Manby come to Montague House, either the end of 1803, or beginning of 1804. I was waiting one day in the anti-room, Captain Manby had his hat in his hand and appeared to be going away. He was a long time with the Princess, and as I stood on the steps waiting, I looked into the room in which they were, and in the reflection in the looking-glass I saw them salute each other. I mean that they kissed each other's lips. Captain Manby then went away. I then observed the Princess have her handkerchief in her hands and wipe her eyes as if she was crying, and went

into the drawing-room. The Princess went to Southend in May 1804. I went with her. We were there I believe about six weeks before the Africaine came in. Sicard was very often watching with a glass to see when the ship would arrive. One day he said he saw the Africaine, and soon after the Captain put off in a boat from the ship. Sicard went down the shrubbery to meet him. When the Captain came on shore, Sicard conducted him to the Princess's House, and he dined there, with the Princess and her Ladies. After this he came very frequently to see the Princess. The Princess had two houses on the Cliff, Nos. 8 and 9. She afterwards took the drawing room of No. 7, which communicated by the balcony with No. 8. The three houses being adjoining, the Princess used to dine in No. 8, and after dinner to remove with the company into No. 7, and I have several times seen the Princess, after having gone into No. 7 with Captain Manby and the rest of the company, retire alone with Captain Manby from No. 7, through No 8, into No. 9, which was the house in which the Princess slept. I suspected that Captain Manby slept frequently in the hovse. It was a subject of conversation in the house. Hints were given by the servants, and I believe that others suspected it as well as myself. The Princess took a child which I understood was brought into the house by Stikeman. I waited only one week in three, and I was not there at the time the child was brought, but I saw it there early in 1803. The child who is now with the Princess is the same as I saw there early in 1803. It has a mark in its left hand. Austin is the name of the man who was said to be the father. Austin's wife is I believe still alive. She has had another child, and has brought it sometimes to Montague House. It is very like the child who lives with the Princess. Mrs. Gosden was employed as a nurse to the child, and she used to bring the child to the Princess as soon as the Princess woke, and the child used to stay with her Royal Highness the

whole morning. The Princess appeared to be extremely fond of the child, and still appears so.

R. BIDGOOD.

Sworn at Lord Grenville's House in Downing-street, the sixth day of June, 1806.

SPENCER,
GRENVILLE.

(No. 5.)

The Deposition of William Cole.

I HAVE lived with the Princess of Wales ever since her marriage. Sir Sidney Smith first visited at Montague House about 1802. I have observed the Princess too familiar with Sir Sidney Smith. One day, I think about February in that year, the Princess ordered some sandwiches. I carried them in the Blue Room to her. Sir Sidney Smith was there. I was surprised to see him there—he must have come in from the Park. If he had been let in from Blackheath he must have passed through the room in which I was waiting. When I had left the sandwiches, I returned after some time into the room, and Sir Sidney Smith was sitting very close to the Princess on the sofa. I looked at him, and at her Royal Highness. She caught my eye, and saw that I noticed the manner in which they were sitting together. They appeared both a little confused when I came into the room. A short time before this, one night about twelve o'clock, I saw a man go into the house from the Park, wrapt up in a great coat. I did not

give any alarm, for the impression on my mind was, that it was not a thief. Soon after I had seen the Princess and Sir Sidney Smith sitting together on the sofa. The Duke of Kent sent for me, and told me that the Princess would be very glad if I would do the duty in town, because she had business to do in town, which she would rather trust to me than any body else. The Duke said that the Princess had thought it would be more agreeable to me to be told this by him than through Sicard. After this I never attended at Montague house, but occasionally when the Princess sent for me. About July, 1802, I observed that the Princess had grown very large; and in the latter end of the same year she appeared to be grown thin, and I observed it to Miss Sander, who said that the Princess was much thinner than she had been. I had not any idea of the Princess being with child. Mr. Lawrence, the painter, used to go to Montague House about the latter end of 1801, when he was painting the Princess, and he has slept in the house two or three nights together. I have often seen him alone with the Princess at eleven and twelve o'clock at night. He has been there as late as one and two o'clock in the morning. One night I saw him with the Princess in the Blue Room, after the ladies had retired. Some time afterwards when I supposed that he had gone to his room, I went to see that all was safe, and I found the Blue Room door locked, and heard a whispering in it, and I went away.

WM. COLE.

Sworn at Lord Grenville's House in Downing-street, the sixth day of June, 1806, before us,

SPENCER,
GRENVILLE.

(No. 6.)

The Deposition of Frances Lloyd.

I HAVE lived twelve years with the Princess of Wales next October. I am in the Coffee-room. My situation in the Coffee-room does not give me opportunities of seeing the Princess. I don't see her sometimes for months. Mr. Mills attended me for a cold. He asked me if the Prince came to Blackheath, backwards and forwards, or something to that effect, for the Princess was with child, or looked as if she was with child. This must have been three or four years ago. It may have been five years ago. I think it must have been some time before the child was brought to the Princess. I remember the child being brought. It was brought into my room. I had orders sent to me to give the mother arrow root, with directions how to make it, to wean the child, and I gave it to the mother, and she took the child away. Afterwards the mother brought the child back again. Whether it was a week, ten days, or a fortnight, I cannot say, but it might be about that time. The second time the mother brought the child, she brought it into my room. I asked her, how a mother could part with her child. I am not sure which time I asked this. The mother cried, and said she could not afford to keep it. The child was said to be about four months old when it was brought. I did not particularly observe it myself.

FRANCES LLOYD.

I was at Ramsgate with the Princess in 1803. One morning, when we were in the house at East Cliff, some body, I don't recollect who, knocked at my door, and desired me to get up to prepare breakfast for the Princess. This was about six o'clock. I was asleep. During the

whole time I was in the Princess's service, I had never been called up before to make breakfast for the Princess. I slept in the housekeeper's room on the ground-floor. I opened the shutters of the window for light. I knew at that time that Captain Manby's ship was in the Downs. When I opened the shutters I saw the Princess walking down the garden with a gentleman. She was walking down the gravel walk towards the sea. No orders had been given me over night to prepare breakfast early. The gentleman the Princess was walking with was a tall man. I was surprised to see the Princess walking with a gentleman, at that time in the morning. I am sure it was the Princess. While we were at Blackheath, a woman at Charlton, of the name of Townly, told me that she had some linen to wash from the Princess's house. That the linen was marked with the appearance of a miscarriage or delivery. The woman has since left Charlton, but she has friends there. I think it must have been before the child was brought to the Princess, that the woman told us this. I know all the women in the Princess's house. I don't think that any of them were in a state of pregnancy, and if any had, I think I must have known it. I never told Cole that Mary Wilson, when she supposed the Princess to be in the library, had gone into the Princess's bedroom, and had found a man there at breakfast with the Princess; or that there was a great to do about it, and that Mary Wilson was sworn to secresy and threatened to be turned away if she divulged what she had seen.

FRANCES LLOYD.

Sworn at Lord Grenville's House in Downing-street, the seventh day of June, 1806, before us,

ERSKINE,
SPENCER.
GRENVILLE,
ELLENBOROUGH.

(No. 7.)

The Deposition of Mary Ann Wilson.

I BELIEVE it will be ten years next quarter, that I have lived with the Princess of Wales, as housemaid. I wait on the ladies who attend the Princess. I remember when the child who is now with the Princess, was brought there, Before it came I heard say that it was to come. The mother brought the child. It appeared to be about four months old when it was brought. I remember twins being brought to the Princess, before this child was brought. I never noticed the Princess's shape to be different in that year from what it was before. I never had thought that the Princess was with child. I have heard it reported. It is a good while ago. I never myself suspected her being with child. I think she could not have been with child, and have gone on to her time without my knowing it. I was at Southend with the Princess. Captain Manby used to visit the Princess there. I make the Princess's bed, and have been in the habit of making it ever since I lived with Her Royal Highness. Another maid, whose name is Ann Bye, assisted with me in making the bed. From what I observed I never had any reason to believe that two persons had slept in the bed. I never saw any particular appearance in it. The linen was washed by Stikeman's wife.

MARY WILSON.

Sworn at Lord Grenville's House in Downing-street, the seventh of June, 1806, before us

ERSKINE,
SPENCER,
GRENVILLE,
ELLENBOROUGH.

(No. 8.)

The Deposition of Samuel Roberts.

I AM a footman to the Princess of Wales. I remember the child being taken by the Princess. I never observed any particular appearance of the Princess in that year—nothing that led me to believe that she was with child. Sir Sidney Smith used to visit the Princess at Blackheath. I never saw him alone with the Princess. He never stayed after eleven o'clock. I recollect Mr. Cole once asking me, I think three years ago, whether there were any favourites in the family. I remember saying, that Captain Manby and Sir Sidney Smith were frequently at Blackheath, and dined there oftener than other persons. I never knew Sir Sidney Smith stay later than the ladies. I cannot say exactly at what hour he went, but I never remember his staying alone with the Princess.

SAMUEL ROBERTS.

Sworn at Lord Grenville's House in Downing-street, the seventh day of June, 1806, before us.

ERSKINE,
SPENCER,
GRENVILLE.
ELLENBOROUGH,

(No. 9.)

The Deposition of Thomas Stikeman.

I HAVE been Page to the Princess of Wales ever since she has been in England. When I first saw the Child who is with the Princess, it is about four years ago. Her Royal Highness had a strong desire to have an infant, which I and all the house knew. I heard there was a woman who had twins, one of which the Princess was desirous to have, but the parents would not part with it. A woman came to the door with a petition to get her husband replaced in the Dock Yard, who had been removed. She had a child with her. I took the child, I believe, and shewed it to Mrs. Sander. I then returned the child to the woman, and made inquiries after the father, and afterwards desired the woman to bring the child again to the house, which she did. The child was taken to the Princess. After the Princess had seen it, she desired the woman to take it again and bring it back in a few days, and Mrs. Sander was desired to provide linen for it. Within a few days the child was brought again by the mother, and was left, and has been with the Princess ever since. I don't recollect the child had any mark; but upon reflection I do recollect that the mother said he was marked with elder wine on the hand. The father of the child, whose name is Austin, lives with me at Pimlico. My wife is a laundress, and washed the linen of the Prince. Austin is employed to turn a mangle for me. The child was born in Brownlow-street, and it was baptized there; but I only know this from the mother. The mother has since lain-in a second time in Brownlow-street. I never saw the woman to my knowledge before she came with the petition to the door. I had no particular directions

by the Princess to procure a child. I thought it better to take the child of persons of good character, than the child of a pauper. Nothing led me, from the appearance of the Princess, to suppose that she was with child, but from her shape it is difficult to judge when she is with child. When she was with child of the Princess Charlotte, I should not have known it when she was far advanced in her time, if I had not been told it. Sir Sidney Smith at one time visited very frequently at Montague House, two or three times a week. At the time the Princess was altering her rooms in the Turkish style, Sir Sidney Smith's visits were very frequent. The Princess consulted him upon them. Mr. Morell was the upholsterer. Sir Sidney Smith came frequently alone. He stayed alone with the Princess sometimes till eleven o'clock at night. He has been there till twelve o'clock, and after, I believe alone with the Princess. The Princess is of that lively vivacity, that she makes herself familiar with gentlemen, which prevented my being struck with his staying so late. I do not believe that at that time any other gentleman visited the Princess so frequently, or stayed so late. I have seen the Princess when they were alone sitting with Sir Sidney Smith on the same sofa in the Blue Room. I had access to the Blue Room at all times. There was an inner room which opened into the Blue Room. When that room was not lighted up, I did not go into it, and did not consider that I had a right to go into it. I had no idea on what account I was brought here. I did not know that the Princess's conduct was questioned or questionable. I was with the Princess at Ramsgate. When she was at East Cliff, Captain Manby was very frequently there; went away as late at night as eleven o'clock. I don't remember Fanny Lloyd being called up any morning to make breakfast for the Princess. I did not like Captain Manby coming so often, and staying so late,—and I was uneasy at it.

I remember a piece of plate, a silver lamp, being sent to Captain Manby. I saw it in Sicard's possession. He told me it was for Captain Manby, and he had a letter to send with it. I have never seen Captain Manby at the Princess's at Ramsgate before nine o'clock in the morning, but I have heard he has been there earlier. I had never any suspicions of there being any thing improper, either from the frequent visits of Captain Manby, or from his conduct. I was at Catherington with the Princess. She used to go out generally in her own chaise. I think I have once or twice seen her go with Mr. Hood in his one-horse chaise. They have been out for two hours, or two hours and a half, together. I believe only a day or two elapsed between the time of the child being first brought, and being then brought back again, and left with the Princess. I am sure the child was not weaned after it had been first brought. I don't recollect any gentleman ever sleeping in the house, I don't remember Lawrence the painter ever sleeping there. The Princess seems very fond of the child. It is always called William Austin.

THOS. STIKEMAN.

Sworn at Lord Grenville's house in Downing-street, the seventh day of June, 1806, before us,

ERSKINE,
SPENCER,
GRENVILLE,
ELLENBOROUGH.

(No. 10.)

The Deposition of John Sicard.

I HAVE lived seven years with the Princess of Wales, am house-steward, and have been in that situation from the end of six months after I first lived with Her Royal Highness. I remember the child who is now with the Princess of Wales being brought there. It was about five months old when it was brought. It is about four years ago, just before we went to Ramsgate. I had not the least suspicion of the object of my being brought here. I had opportunity of seeing the Princess frequently. I waited on her at dinner and supper. I never observed that the Princess had the appearance of being with child. I think it was hardly possible that she should have been with child without my perceiving it. Sir Sidney Smith used to visit very frequently at Montague House in 1802, with Sir John and Lady Douglas. He was very often, I believe, alone with the Princess, and so was Mr. Canning, and other gentlemen. I cannot say that I ever suspected Sir Sidney Smith of any improper conduct with the Princess. I never had any suspicion of the Princess acting improperly with Sir Sidney Smith or any other gentleman. I remember Captain Manby visiting at Montague House. The Princess of Wales did not pay for the expence of fitting up his cabin, but the linen furniture was ordered by me, by direction of the Princess, of Newberry and Jones. It was put by Newberry and Jones in the Princess's bill, and was paid for with the rest of the bill by Miss Heyman.

JOHN SICARD.

Sworn at Lord Grenville's house in Downing-street, the seventh day of June, 1806, before us,

ERSKINE,
SPENCER,
GRENVILLE,
ELLENBOROUGH.

(No. 11.)

The Deposition of Charlotte Sander.

I HAVE lived with the Princess of Wales eleven years. I am a native of Brunswick, and came with the Princess from Brunswick. The Princess has a little boy living with her under her protection. He had a mark on his hand, but it is worn off. I first saw him four years ago, in the autumn. The father and mother of the child are still alive. I have seen them both. The father worked in the Dock Yard at Deptford, but has now lost the use of his limbs. The father's name is Austin. The mother brought the child to the Princess when he was four months old. I was present when the child was brought to the Princess. She was in her own room up stairs when the child was brought. She came out and took the child herself. I understood that the child was expected before it was brought. I am sure that I never saw the child in the house before it appeared to be four months old. The Princess was not ill or indisposed in the autumn of 1802. I was dresser to Her Royal Highness. She could not be ill or indisposed without my knowing it. I am sure that she was not confined to her room or to her bed in that autumn. There was not to my knowledge any other child in the house. It was hardly possible there could have been a child there without my knowing it. I have no recollection that the Princess had grown bigger in the year 1802 than usual. I am sure the Princess was not pregnant. Being her dresser, I must have seen it if she was. I solemnly and positively swear I have no reason to know or believe that the Princess of Wales has been at any time pregnant during the time I have lived with Her Royal Highness at Montague House. I may have said to Cole that the Princess was grown much thinner, but I

don't recollect that I did. I never heard any body say any thing about the Princess being pregnant till I came here to-day. I did not expect to be asked any question to-day respecting the Princess being pregnant. Nobody came over to the Princess from Germany in the autumn of 1802 to my knowledge. Her Royal Highness was generally blooded twice in a year, but not lately. I never had any reason to suppose that the Princess received the visits of any gentleman at improper hours. Sir Sidney Smith visited her frequently, and almost daily. He was there very late, sometimes till two o'clock in the morning. I never saw Sir Sidney Smith in a room alone with the Princess late at night. I never saw any thing which led me to suppose that Sir Sidney Smith was on a very familiar footing with the Princess of Wales. I attended the Princess of Wales to Southend. She had two houses, No. 9 and No. 8. I knew Captain Manby. He commanded the Africaine. He visited the Princess. While his ship was there, he was frequently with the Princess. I don't know or believe, and I have no reason to believe, that Captain Manby staid till very late hours with the Princess, I never suspected that there was any improper familiarity between them. I never expressed to any body a wish that Captain Manby's visits were not so frequent. If the Princess had company, I was never present. The Princess was at Ramsgate in 1803. I have seen Captain Manby there frequently. He came to the Princess's House to dinner. He never stayed till late at night at the Princess's house. I was in Devonshire with the Princess lately. There was no one officer that she saw when she was in Devonshire more than the rest. I never heard from the Princess that she apprehended her conduct was questioned. When I was brought here I thought I might be questioned respecting the Princess's conduct, and I was sorry to come. I don't know why I thought so. I never saw any thing in the conduct of the

Princess while I lived with her, which would have made me uneasy if I had been her husband. When I was at Southend I dined in the Steward's room. I can't say whether I ever heard any body in the Steward's room say any thing about the Captain, meaning Captain Manby. It is so long ago I may have forgot it. I have seen Captain Manby alone with the Princess at No. 9, in the drawing-room at Southend. I have seen it only once or twice. It was at two or three o'clock in the afternoon, and never later. I slept in a room next to the Princess in the house, No. 9. at Southend. I never saw Captain Manby in any part of that house but the drawing room. I have no reason to believe he was in any other room in the house. I was at Catherington with the Princess. She was at Mr. Hood's house. I never saw any familiarity between her and Mr. Hood. I have seen her drive out in Mr. Hood's carriage with him alone. It was a gig. They used to be absent for several hours. A servant of the Princess attended them. I have delivered packets by the order of the Princess, which she gave me sealed up, to Sicard, to be by him forwarded to Captain Manby. The birth-day of the child who lives with the Princess is the 11th of July, as his mother told me. She says that he was christened at Deptford. The child had a mark on the hand. The mother told me that it was from red wine. I believe the child came to the Princess in November.

C. SANDER.

Sworn at Lord Grenville's house in Downing-street, the seventh day of June, 1806.

ERSKINE,
SPENCER,
GRENVILLE,
ELLENBOROUGH.

(No. 12.)

Deposition of Sophia Austin.

I know the child which is now with the Princess of Wales. I am the mother of it. I was delivered of it four years ago, the 11th of July next, at Brownlow-street Hospital. I have lain in there three times. William, who is with the Princess, is the second child I laid in of there. It was marked in the right hand with red wine. My husband was a labourer in the Dock-yard at Deptford. When peace was proclaimed, a number of the workmen were discharged, and my husband was one who was discharged. I went to the Princess with a petition on a Saturday, to try to get my husband restored. I lived at that time at Deptford New-row, No. 7, with a person of the name of Bearblock. He was a milkman. The day I went to the Princess with the petition was a fortnight before the 6th of November. Mr. Bennet a baker in New-street was our dealer, and I took the child to Mr. Bennet's when I went to receive my husband's wages every week from the time I left the Hospital till I carried the child to the Princess. I knew Mr. Stikeman only by having seen him once before, when I went to apply for a letter to Brownlow-street Hospital. When I went to Montague House, I desired Mr. Stikeman to present my petition. He said they were denied to do such things, but seeing me with a baby he could do no less. He then took the child from me, and was a long time gone. He then brought me back the child, and brought Half-a-guinea which the ladies sent me. He said if the child had been younger he could have got it taken care of for me, but desired that I would come up again. I went up again on the Monday following, and

I saw Mr. Stikeman. Mr. Stikeman afterwards came several times to us, and appointed me to take the child to Montague House on the 5th of November, but it rained all day, and I did not take it. Mr. Stikeman came down to me on the Saturday the 6th of November, and I took the child on that day to the Princess's house. The Princess was out. I waited till she returned. She saw the child and asked it's age. I went down into the coffee-room, and they gave me some arrow-root to wean the child; for I was suckling the child at this time, and when I had weaned the child I was to bring it and leave it with the Princess. I did wean the child, and brought it to the Princess's house on the 15th of November, and left it there, and it has been with the Princess ever since I saw the child last Whit-Monday, and I swear that it is my child.

SOPHIA AUSTIN.

Sworn at Lord Grenville's house in Downing-street, the seventh day of June, 1806, before us,

ERSKINE,
SPENCER,
GRENVILLE,
ELLENBOROUGH.

(No. 13.)

20th June, 1806.

My Lord,

In consequence of certain inquiries directed by his Majesty, Lady Douglas, wife of Sir John Douglas of the Marines, has deposed upon oath that she was told by her

Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, that at a breakfast at Lady Willoughby's house in May or June, 1802. &c.

[*Extract from Lady Douglas's Deposition.*]

It being material to ascertain as far as possible the truth of this fact, I am to request, that your Lordship will have the goodness to desire Lady Willoughby to put down in writing every circumstance in any manner relative thereto (if any such there be) of which her Ladyship has any recollection; and also to apprize me, for his Majesty's information, whether at any time, during the course of the above-mentioned year, Lady Willoughby observed any such alteration in the Princess's shape, or any other circumstances, as might induce her Ladyship to believe that Her Royal Highness was then pregnant.

I am, &c.

SPENCER.

(No. 14.)

Sidmouth, 21st June, 1806.

My Dear Lord,

In obedience to your commands I lost no time in communicating to Lady Willoughby the important subject of your private letter, dated the 20th instant, and I have the honour of enclosing a letter to your Lordship from Lady Willoughby.

I have the honour, &c.

GWYDIR.

(No. 15.)

My Lord,

In obedience to the command contained in your Lordship's letter communicated to me by Lord Gwydir, I have the honour to inform you, that I have no recollection whatever of the fact stated to have taken place, during a breakfast at Whitehall in May or June 1802; nor do I bear in mind any particular circumstances relative to her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales at the period to which you allude.

I have the honour, &c.

WILLOUGHBY.

June 21, 1806.

Earl Spencer.

(No. 16)

Extract from the Register of the Births and Baptisms of Children born in the Brownlow-street Lying-in Hospital.

Born	1802,	Baptized,
	May,	
8,	Thomas, of Richard and Elizabeth Austin,	20
	July,	
11,	William, of Samuel and Sophia Austin,	15

The above are the only two entries under the name of Austin, about the period in question, and were extracted by me. No description of the children is preserved.

CHARLES WATKIN WILLIAMS WYNN.

June 23, 1806.

(No. 17.)

The Deposition of Elizabeth Gosden.

I AM the wife of Francis Gosden, who is a servant of the Princess of Wales, and has lived with her Royal Highness eleven years. In November, 1802, I was sent for to the Princess's house to look after a little child; I understood that he had been then nine days in the house. I was nurse to the child. One of the ladies, I think Miss Sander, delivered the child to me, and told me her Royal Highness wished me to take care of him. The child never slept with the Princess. I sometimes used to take him to the Princess before she was up, and leave him with her on her bed. The child had a mark on the hand, it appeared to be a stain of wine, but is now worn out. I was about a year and three quarters with the child. The mother used to come often to see him. I never saw the Princess dress the child, or take off its things herself; but she has seen me do it. The child is not so much with the Princess now as he was.

ELIZ. GOSDEN.

Sworn at Lord Grenville's house in Downing street, the 23d day of June, 1806, before us,

ERSKINE,
SPENCER,
GRENVILLE,
ELLENBOROUGH.

(No. 18.)

Deposition of Betty Townley.

I LIVED at Charlton sixteen years, and till within the last two years, I was a laundress, and used to wash linen for the Princess of Wales's family. After the Princess left Charlton and went to Blackheath, I used to go over to Blackheath to fetch the linen to wash. I have had linen from the Princess's house the same as other ladies: I mean that there were such appearances on it as might arise from natural causes to which women are subject. I never washed the Princess's own bed-linen, but once or twice occasionally. I recollect one bundle of linen once coming which I thought rather more marked than usual. They told me that the Princess had been bled with leeches, and it dirtied the linen more: the servants told me so, but I dont remember who the servants were that told me so. I recollect once, I came to town and left the linen with my daughter to wash; I looked at the clothes slowly before I went, and counted them, and my daughter, and a woman she employed with her washed them while I was in town. I thought when I looked them over, that there might be something more than usual. My opinion was, that it was from a miscarriage. The linen had the appearance of a miscarriage, I believed it at the time. They were fine damask napkins, and some of them marked with a little red crown in the corner, and some without marks. I might mention it to Fanny Lloyd. I don't recollect when this was, but it must be more than two years and a half ago; for I did not wash for the Princess's family but very little for the last six months. Mary Wilson used to give me the linen, and I believe it was she who told me that the Princess was bled with leeches; but the appearance of the linen which I have spoken of before, was different

from that which it was said was stained by bleeding with leeches. I remember the child coming. I used to wash the linen for the child, and Mrs. Gosden who nursed the child, used to pay me for it. I kept a book, in which I entered the linen I washed. I am not sure whether I have it still;—but, if I have, it is in a chest at my daughter's, at Charlton, and I will produce it if I can find it.

B. TOWNLEY.

Sworn at Lord Grenville's House in Downing-street, the 23d day of June, 1806, before us,

ERSKINE,
SPENCER.
GRENVILLE,
ELLENBOROUGH.

(No. 19.)

Deposition of Thomas Edmeades, of Greenwich, Surgeon and Apothecary.

I AM a surgeon and apothecary at Greenwich, and was appointed the surgeon and apothecary of the Princess of Wales, in 1801. From that time I have attended her Royal Highness and her household. I knew Fanny Lloyd who attended in the coffee-room, at the Princess's. I have frequently attended her for colds. I do not recollect that I ever said any thing to her respecting the Princess of Wales. It never once entered my thoughts while I attended the Princess, that she was pregnant. I never said that she was so to Fanny Lloyd. I have bled the Princess twice;

the second bleeding was in 1802, and it was in the June quarter, as appears by the book I kept. I don't know what she was bled for—it was at her own desire—it was not by any medical advice. I was unwilling to do it, but she wished it. If I recollect, she complained of a pain in her chest, but I don't remember that she had any illness. I did not use to bleed her twice a year. I certainly saw Her Royal Highness in Nov. 1802. I saw her on the 16th of November, but I had not any idea of her being then with child. I did not attend her on the 16th November, but I saw her then; I was visiting a child (a male child,) from Deptford. I have no recollection of having seen the Princess in October, 1802. The child must have been from three to five months old when I first saw it. I have no recollection of the Princess having been ill about the end of October, 1802. I have visited the child very often since, and I have always understood it to be the same child. The Princess used sometimes to send for leeches, and had them from me. I don't think that I attended the Princess, or saw her often, in the summer and autumn of 1802. I had not the sole care of the Princess's health during the time I have spoken of. Sir Francis Millman attended her occasionally.

THOMAS EDMEADES.

Sworn at Lord Grenville's House in Downing-street, the 25th day of June, 1806, before us,

ERSKINE,
SPENCER,
GRENVILLE,
ELLENBOROUGH.

(No. 20.)

Deposition of Samuel Gillam Mills, of Greenwich, Surgeon.

I AM a surgeon at Greenwich; have been in partnership with Mr. Edmeades since 1800. Before he was my partner I attended the Princess of Wales's Family from the time of her coming to Blackheath from Charlton, I was appointed by the Princess her surgeon, in April, 1801, by a written appointment, and from that time I never attended Her Royal Highness, or any of the servants, in my medical capacity, except that I once attended Miss Gouch, and once Miss Millfield. There was a child brought to the Princess while I attended her. I was called upon to examine the child. It was a girl. It must have been in 1801, or thereabouts. The child afterwards had the measles, and I attended her. When first I saw the child, I think it must have been about ten months old. It must have been prior to April, 1801. I understood that the child was taken through charity. I remember that there was a female servant who attended in the coffee-room. I never said to that woman, or to any other person, that the Princess was with child, or looked as if she was with child, and I never thought so, or surmised any thing of the kind. I was once sent for by her Royal Highness to bleed her. I was not at home, and Mr. Edmeades bled her. I had bled her two or three times before; it was by direction of Sir Francis Millman. It was for an inflammation she had on the lungs. As much as I knew it was not usual for the Princess to be bled twice a year. I don't know that any other medical person attended her at the time that I did, nor do I believe that there did. I don't know that Sir Francis Millman had advised that she should be blooded at the time that I was sent for and was not at home, nor what was the cause of her being then blooded. I do recollect

something of having attended the servant who was in the coffee-room, for a cold, but I am sure I never said to her that the Princess was with child, or looked as if she was so. I have known that the Princess has frequently sent to Mr. Edmeades for leeches. When I saw the female child, Mrs. Sander was in the room, and some other servants, but I don't recollect who. I was sent for to see whether there was any disease about the child—to see whether it was a healthy child, as her Royal Highness meant to take it under her patronage. The child could just walk alone. I saw the child frequently afterwards. It was at one time with Bidgood, and another time with Gosden and his wife. I don't recollect that the Princess was by at any time when I saw the child. I never saw the child in Montague House when I attended it as a patient, but when I was first sent for to see if the child had any disease, it was in Montague House.

SAMUEL GILLAM MILLS.

Sworn at Lord Grenville's House in Downing-street, the 25th day of June, 1806, before us,

ERSKINE,
SPENCER,
GRENVILLE,
ELLENBOROUGH.

A true Copy,
J. Becket.

(No. 21.)

Deposition of Harriet Fitzgerald.

I CAME first to live with the Princess of Wales in 1801, merely as a friend and companion, and have continued to live with her Royal Highness to this time. I know Lady

Douglas. I remember her lying in. It happened by accident that her Royal Highness was in the house at the time of Lady Douglas's delivery. I think it was in July, 1802. I was there myself. The Princess was not in the room at the time Lady Douglas was delivered. There was certainly no appearance of the Princess being pregnant at that time. I saw the Princess at that time every day, and at all hours. I believe it to be quite impossible that the Princess should have been with child without my observing it. I never was at a breakfast with the Princess at Lady Willoughby's. The Princess took a little girl into the house about nine years ago. I was not in the house at the time. I was in the house when the boy, who is now there, was brought there. She had said before openly that she should like to have a child, and she had asked the servant who brought the child, if he knew of any persons who would part with a child. I was at Southend with the Princess. I remember Captain Manby being there sometimes. He was not there very often. He used to come at different hours, as the tide served. He dined there, but never stayed late. I was at Southend all the time the Princess was there. I cannot recollect that I have seen Captain Manby there, or known him to be there, later than nine, or half after nine. I never knew of any correspondence by letter with him when he was abroad. I don't recollect to have seen him ever early in the morning at the Princess's. I was at Ramsgate with the Princess. Captain Manby may have dined there once. He never slept there to my knowledge, nor do I believe he did. The Princess rises at different hours, seldom before ten or eleven. I never knew her up at six o'clock in the morning. If she had been up so early I should not have known it, not being up so early myself. I remember the Princess giving Captain Manby an ink-stand. He had the care of two boys whom she protected. I can't say that Captain Manby did not sleep at Southend. He may have slept in the village, but I be-

lieve he never slept in the Princess's house. I was at Catherington with the Princess. I remember her Royal Highness going out in an open carriage with the present Lord Hood. I believe Lord Hood's servant attended them. There was only one servant, and no other carriage with them. I was at Dawlish this summer with the Princess, and afterwards at Mount Edgcombe. The Princess saw a great deal of company there. Sir Richard Strachan used to come there. I don't know what was the cause of his discontinuing his visits there. I remember Sir Sidney Smith being frequently at Montague House. He was sometimes there as late as twelve and one o'clock in the morning, but never alone that I know of. The Princess was not in the room when Lady Douglas was brought to bed. I know she was not, because I was in the room myself when Lady Douglas was delivered. Dr. Mackie of Lewisham, was the accoucheur. I don't recollect Sir Sidney Smith ever being alone with the Princess in the evening. It may have happened, but I don't know that it did. I used to sit with the Princess always in the evening, but not in the morning. I was with the Princess in the Isle of Wight. Mr. Hood and Lord Amelius Beauclerc were there with her. She went there from Portsmouth.

HARRIET FITZGERALD.

Sworn before us at Lord Grenville's House in Downing-street, the 27th day of June, 1806, before us,

ERSKINE,
SPENCER,
GRENVILLE,
ELLENBOROUGH.

A true Copy,
J. Becket.

(No. 22.)

Whitehall, July 1, 1806.

My Lord,

The extreme importance of the business on which I have before troubled your Lordship and Lady Willoughby, makes it the indispensable duty of the persons to whom his Majesty has entrusted the Enquiry, further to request that her Ladyship will have the goodness to return in writing, distinct and separate answers to the exclosed Queries. They beg leave to add, that in the discharge of the trust committed to them, they have been obliged to examine upon oath the several persons to whose testimony they have thought it right to have recourse on this occasion. They have been unwilling to give Lady Willoughby the trouble of so long a journey for that purpose, well knowing the full reliance which may be placed on every thing which shall be stated by her Ladyship in this form. But on her return to town it may probably be judged necessary, for the sake of uniformity in this most important proceeding, that she should be so good as to confirm on oath, the truth of the written answers requested from her Ladyship.

(*No Signature in the original.*)

(No. 23.)

Sidmouth, July 3, 1806.

My Lord,

I immediately communicated to Lady Willoughby the Queries transmitted to me in the envelope of a letter dated July the first, which I had the honour to receive this day from your Lordship. I return the Queries with Lady Willoughby's Answers in her own hand-writing.

We are both truly sensible of your Lordship's kind attention in not requiring Lady Willoughby's personal attendance. She will most readily obey the Order of the Council, should her presence become necessary.

I have the honour, &c.

GWYDIR.

To Earl Spencer, &c. &c. &c.

A true Copy,
J. Becket.

(No. 24.)

Queries.	*Answers.*
1. Does Lady Willoughby remember seeing the Princess of Wales at breakfast or dinner at her house, either at Whitehall or Bec-	1. In the course of the last ten years the Princess of Wales has frequently done me the honour to breakfast and dine at White-

kenham, on or about the months of May or June, 1802?

hall, and Langley, in Kent. Her Royal Highness may have been at my house in the months of May or June, 1802, but of the periods at which I had the honour of receiving her, I have no precise recollection.

2. Has her Ladyship any recollection of the circumstance of her Royal Highness having retired from the company at such breakfast or dinner, on account, or under the pretence, of having spilt any thing over her handkerchief? And if so, did Lady Willoughby attend her Royal Highness on that occasion? and what then passed between them relative to that circumstance?

2. I do not remember her Royal Highness having at any time retired from the company either at Whitehall, or at Langley, under the pretence of having spilt any thing over her handkerchief.

3. Had Lady Willoughby frequent opportunities in the course of that year, to see her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, and at what periods? And did she at any time during the year, observe any appearance, which led her to suspect that the Princess of Wales was pregnant?

3. To the best of my remembrance I had few opportunities of seeing the Princess of Wales in the year 1802, and I do not recollect having observed any particular circumstances relative to her Royal Highness's appearance.

4. Is Lady Willoughby acquainted with any other circumstances leadingto the same conclusion, or tending to establish the fact of a criminal intercourse, or improper familiarity between her Royal Highness and any other person whatever? and if so, what are they?

4. During the ten years I have had the honour of knowing the Princess of Wales, I do not bear in mind a single instance of her Royal Highness's conduct in society towards any individual, tending to establish the fact of a criminal intercourse, or improper familiarity.

WILLOUGHBY.

(No. 25.)

Robert Bidgood---further Deposition.

The Princess used to go out in her phaeton with coachman and helper, towards Long Reach, eight or ten times, carrying luncheon and wine with her, when Captain Manby's ship was at Long Reach—always Mrs. Fitzgerald with her—She would go out at one, and return about five or six—sometimes sooner or later. The day the Africaine sailed from Southend the Princess ordered us to pack up for Blackheath next morning. Captain Manby there three times a week at the least, whilst his ship lay for six weeks off Southend at the Nore—he came as tide served—used to come in a morning, and dine and drink tea. I have seen him next morning by ten o'clock. I suspected he slept at No. 9, the Princess's—she always put out the candles herself in the drawing-room at No. 9, and bid me not wait to put them up; she gave me the or-

ders as soon as she went to Southend. I used to see water-jugs, basons, and towels, set out opposite the Princess's door, in the passage,—never saw them so left in the passage at any other time; and I suspected he was there at those times. There was a general suspicion throughout the house. Mrs. and Miss Fitzgerald there, and Miss Hammond (now Lady Hood) there. My suspicions arose from seeing them in the glasses kiss each other, as I mentioned before, like people fond of each other—a very close kiss.—Her behaviour like that of a woman attached to a man;—used to be by themselves at luncheon at Southend—when ladies not sent for—a number of times. There was a poney which Captain Manby used to ride; it stood in the stable ready for him, and which Sicard used to ride.

The servants used to talk and laugh about Captain Manby, it was matter of discourse amongst them, I lived there when Sir Sidney Smith came, her manner with him appeared very familiar. She appeared very attentive to him, but I did not suspect any thing farther. All the upper servants had keys of the doors to the Park to let her Royal Highness in and out. I used to see Sicard receive letters from Mrs. Sander to put in the post instead of the bag. This was after Captain Manby was gone to sea, I suspected this to be for Captain Manby, and others in the house suspected the same.

(Signed) R. BIDGOOD.

Sworn before us in Downing-street, this third day of July.

(Signed) ERSKINE,
SPENCER,
GRENVILLE,
ELLENBOROUGH.

A true Copy,
J. Becket.

(No. 26.)

Sir Francis Milliman's Deposition.

I ATTENDED the Princess of Wales in the spring and latter end of the year 1802, i. e. in March, and towards the autumn. Mr. Mills of Greenwich attended then as her Royal Highness's apothecary, and Mr. Mills and his partner Mr. Edmeades have attended since. I do not know that any other medical person attended at that time either as apothecary or physician. In March, 1802, I attended her for a sore throat and fever. In 1803, in April, I attended her Royal Highness again, with Sir Walter Farquhar. I dont know whether she was blooded in 1802. She was with difficulty persuaded to be blooded in 1803 for a pain in her chest, saying she had not been blooded before; that they could not find a vein in her arm. I saw no mark on her arm of her having been blooded before. I observed her Royal Highness's person at the end of that year 1802. Never observed then, or at any other time, any thing which induced me to think her Royal Highness was in a pregnant situation. I think it is impossible she should in that year have been delivered of a child without my observing it. She during that year, and at all times, was in the habit of receiving the visits of the Duke of Gloucester.

I never attended her Royal Highness but on extraordinary illnesses. Her Royal Highness has, for the last year and half, had her prescriptions made up at Walker and Young's, St. James's-street.

If she had been a pregnant woman in June, 1802, I could not have helped observing it.

FR. MILMAN.

Sworn before us in Downing-street, July 3d, 1806, by the said Sir Francis Milman.

ERSKINE,
SPENCER,
GRENVILLE,
ELLENBOROUGH.

A true Copy,
J. Becket.

(No. 27.)

The Deposition of Mrs. Lisle.

I (HESTER LISLE) am in the Princess of Wales's family; have been so ever since her Royal Highness's marriage. I was not at Southend with the Princess—was at Blackheath with her in 1802, but am not perfectly sure as to date. I am generally a month at a time (three months in the year) with her Royal Highness; in April, August, and December; was so in August, 1802. I did not observe any alteration in her Royal Highness's shape which gave me any idea that she was pregnant. I had no reason to know or believe that she was pregnant. During my attendance, hardly a day passes without my seeing her. She could not have been far advanced in pregnancy without my knowing it. I was at East Cliff with her Royal Highness in August, 1803. I saw Captain Manby only once at East Cliff, in August, 1803, to the best of my

recollection. He might have been oftener: and once again at Deal Castle. Captain Manby landed there with some boys the Princess takes on charity. I saw Captain Manby at East Cliff one morning, not particularly early. I don't know of any presents which the Princess made Captain Manby—have seen Captain Manby at Blackheath one Christmas. He used to come to dine the Christmas before we were at Ramsgate—it was the Christmas after Mrs. Austin's child came. He always went away in my presence; I had no reason to think he staid after we, the ladies, retired. He lodged on the Heath at that time—I believe his ship was fitting up at Deptford. He was there frequently, I think not every day—he generally came to dinner—three or four times a week or more—I suppose he might be alone with her, but the Princess is in the habit of seeing gentlemen and tradesmen without my being present.—I have seen him at luncheon and dinner both. The boys came with him, not to dinner, and not generally: not above two or three times—two boys; —I think Sir Sidney Smith came also frequently the Christmas before that, to the best of my recollection. At dinner, when Captain Manby dined, he always sat next her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales. The constant company were, Mrs. and Miss Fitzgerald and myself, we all retired with the Princess and sat in the same room. He generally retired about eleven o'clock: he sat with us till then. This occurred three or four times a week, or more. Her Royal Highness, the Lady in waiting, and her Page, have each a key of the door from the Greenhouse to the Park. Captain Manby and the Princess used, when we were together, to be speaking together separately —conversing separately, but not in a room alone together, to my knowledge. He was a person with whom she appeared to have greater pleasure in talking than to her ladies. She behaved to him only as any woman would

who likes flirting. I should not have thought any married woman would have behaved properly who should have behaved as her Royal Highness did to Captain Manby. I can't say whether she was attached to Captain Manby, only that it was a flirting conduct. Never saw any gallantries, as kissing her hand, or the like.

I was with her Royal Highness at Lady Sheffield's last Christmas, in Sussex. I inquired what company was there when I came. She said only Mr. John Chester, who was there by her Royal Highness's orders; that she could get no other company to meet her, on account of the roads and season of the year. He dined and slept there that night. The next day other company came; Mr. Chester remained. I heard her Royal Highness say she had been ill in the night, and came and lighted her candle in her servant's room. I returned from Sheffield-place to Blackheath with the Princess—Captain Moore dined there—I left him and the Princess twice alone, for a short time—he might be alone half an hour with her, in the room below, in which we had been sitting—I went to look for a book, to complete a set her Royal Highness was lending Captain Moore. She made him a present of an inkstand, to the best of my recollection. He was there one morning in January last, on the Princess Charlotte's birth-day; he went away before the rest of the company; I might be absent about twenty minutes the second time I was away, the night Captain Moore was there. At Lady Sheffield's her Royal Highness paid more attention to Mr. Chester than to the rest of the company. I knew of her Royal Highness walking out alone twice with Mr. Chester, in the morning, alone, once a short time; it rained; the other, not an hour; not long. Mr. Chester is a pretty young man. Her attentions to him were not uncommon; not the same as to Captain Manby. I am not certain whether the Princess answered any letters of Lady Doug-

las. I was at Catherington with the Princess. Remember Mr. now Lord Hood, there, and the Princess going out airing with him alone in Mr. Hood's little whiskey, and his servant was with them. Mr. Hood drove, and staid out two or three hours more than once. Three or four times. Mr. Hood dined with us several times. Once or twice he slept in an house in the garden. She appeared to pay no attention to him but that of common civility to an intimate acquaintance. Remember the Princess sitting to Mr. Lawrence for her picture at Blackheath, and in London. I have left her at his house in town with him, but I think Mrs. Fitzgerald was with her; and she sat alone with him I think at Blackheath. I was never in her Royal Highness's confidence, but she has always been kind and good-natured to me. She never mentioned Captain Manby particularly to me. I remember her being blooded the day Lady Sheffield's child was christened. Not several times, that I recollect; nor any other time; nor believe she was in the habit of being blooded twice a year. The Princess at one time appeared to like Lady Douglas. Sir John came frequently. Sir Sidney Smith visited about the same time with the Douglasses. I have seen Sir Sidney there very late in the evening, but not alone with the Princess. I have no reason to suspect he had a key of the Park-gate. I never heard of any body being found wandering about at Blackheath. I have heard of somebody being found wandering about late at night at Mount Edgcumbe, when the Princess was there. I heard that two women and a man were seen crossing the hall. The Princess saw a great deal of company at Mount Edgcumbe. Sir Richard Strachan was reported to have spoken freely of the Princess. I did not hear that he had offered a rudeness to her person. She told me she had heard he had spoken disrespectfully

of her, and therefore I believe wrote to him by Sir Samuel Hood.

(Signed) HESTER LISLE.

Signed before us, in Downing-street, this third day of July, 1806,

ERSKINE.
SPENCER.
GRENVILLE.
ELLENBOROUGH.

A true Copy,
J. Becket.

(No 28.)

Lower Brook-street, July 4, 1806.

My Lord,

Before your arrival in Downing-street last night, I bespoke the indulgence of the Lords of his Majesty's Council for inaccuracy as to dates, respecting any attendance at Blackheath, before 1803. Having only notice in the forenoon of an examination, I could not prepare myself for it to any period previous to that year, and I now hasten, as far as the examination of my papers will permit, to correct an error into which I fell, in stating to their Lordships, that I attended her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales in the spring of 1802, and that I *then* met his Royal Highness the late Duke of Gloucester at Blackheath. It was in the spring of 1801, and not of 1802, that, after attending her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales for ten or twelve days, I had the honour of seeing the Duke of Gloucester at her house.

I have the honour, &c.
FR. MILMAN.

A true Copy,
J. Becket.

Earl Cholmondeley, sworn July 16th, 1806.

I HAVE seen the Princess of Wales write frequently, and I think I am perfectly acquainted with her manner of writing.

A letter produced to his Lordship marked (A).

This letter is not of the Princess's hand-writing.

A paper produced to his Lordship, (marked (B) with a kind of drawing with the names of Sir Sidney Smith and Lady Douglas.

This paper appears to me to be written in a disguised hand. Some of the letters remarkably resemble the Princess's writing ; but because of the disguise I cannot say whether it be or be not her Royal Highness's writing.

On the cover being shewn to his Lordship also marked (B.) he gave the same answer.

His Lordship was also shewn the cover marked (C.) to which his Lordship answered, I do not see the same resemblance to the Princess's writing in this paper.

CHOLMONDELEY.

Sworn before us, July 16th, 1806.

ERSKINE,
SPENCER,
GRENVILLE.

A true Copy,
John Becket.

APPENDIX (B).

Statement of Lady Douglas.

HIS Royal Highness the Prince of Wales having judged proper to order me to detail to him, as Heir Apparent, the whole circumstances of my acquaintance with her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, from the day I first spoke with her to the present time, I felt it my duty, as a subject, to comply without hesitation with his Royal Highness's commands; and I did so, because I conceived, even putting aside the rights of an Heir Apparent, his Royal Highness was justified in informing himself as to the actions of his wife, who, from all the information he had collected, seemed so likely to disturb the tranquillity of the country; and it appeared to me that, in so doing, his Royal Highness evinced his earnest regard for the real interest of the country, in endeavouring to prevent such a person from, perhaps, one day, placing a spurious Heir upon the English Throne, and which his Royal Highness has indeed a right to fear, and communicate to the Sovereign, as the Princess of Wales told me, "If she were discovered in bringing her son into the world "she would give the Prince of Wales the credit of it, for "that she had slept two nights in the year she was preg-"nant in Carlton House."

As an Englishwoman, educated in the highest respect-

ful attachment to the Royal Family; as the daughter of an English Officer, who has all his life received the most gracious marks of approbation and protection from his Majesty, and from his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales; and as the wife of an Officer, whom our beloved King has honoured with a public mark of his approbation, and who is bound to the Royal Family by ties of respectful regard and attachment, which nothing can ever break, I feel it my duty to make known the Princess of Wales's sentiments and conduct, now, and whensoever I may be called upon.

For the information, therefore, of his Majesty and of the Heir Apparent, and by the desire of the Heir Apparent, I beg leave to state, that Sir John took a house upon Blackheath in the year 1801, because the air was better for him, after his Egyptian services, than London, and it was somewhat nearer Chatham, where his military duties occasionally called him. I had a daughter, born upon the 17th of February, and we took up our residence there in April, living very happily and quietly; but in the month of November, when the ground was covered with snow, as I was sitting in my parlour, which commanded a view of the Heath, I saw, to my surprise, the Princess of Wales, elegantly dressed in a lilac satin pelisse, primrose-coloured half boots, and a small lilac satin travelling cap, faced with sable, and a Lady, pacing up and down before the house, and sometimes stopping, as if desirous of opening the gate in the iron-railing to come in. At first I had no conception her Royal Highness really wished to come in, but must have mistaken the house for another person's, for I had never been made known to her, and I did not know that she knew where I lived. I stood at the window looking at her, and, as she looked very much, from respect, courtesied (as I understood was customary); to my astonishment she returned my courtesy by a familiar nod, and stopped. Old Lady

Stuart, a West Indian Lady, who lived in my immediate neighbourhood, and who was in the habit of coming in to see me, was in the room, and said, "You should go out, her Royal Highness wants to come in out of the snow." Upon this I went out, and she came immediately to me and said, "I believe you are Lady Douglas, and you have a very beautiful child; I should like to see it." I answered that I was Lady Douglas. Her Royal Highness then said, "I should like of all things to see your little child." I answered, that I was very sorry I could not have the honour of presenting my little girl to her, as I and my family were spending the cold weather in town, and I was only come to pass an hour or two upon the Heath. I held open the gate, and the Princess of Wales and her Lady, Miss Heyman (I believe) walked in and sat down, and stayed above an hour, laughing very much at Lady Stuart, who, being a singular character, talked all kind of nonsense. After her Royal Highness had amused herself as long as she pleased, she inquired where Sir John Douglas and Sir Sidney Smith were, and went away, having shook hands with me, and expressed her pleasure at having found me out and made herself known: I concluded that Sir Sidney Smith had acquainted her Royal Highness that we resided upon the Heath, as he was just arrived in England, and having been in long habits of friendship with Sir John, was often with us, and told us how kind he should think it if we could let him come to and fro without ceremony, and let him have an airy room appropriated to himself, as he was always ill in town, and from being asthmatic, suffered extremely when the weather was foggy in town. Sir John gave him that hospitable reception he was in the habit of doing by all his old friends, (for I understand they have been known to each other more than twenty years), and he introduced him to me as a person, to whom he wished my friendly attention to be paid; as I had never seen Sir Sidney

Smith in my life, until this period, when he became, as it were, a part of the family. When I returned to town, I told Sir John Douglas the circumstance of the Princess having visited me, and a few days after this, we received a note from Mrs. Lisle (who was in waiting) commanding us to dine at Montague House. We went, and there were several persons at the dinner. I remember Lord and Lady Dartmouth, and I think Mr. and Mrs. Arbuthnot, &c. &c. From this time the Princess made me frequent visits, always attended by her Ladies, or Mrs. Sander (her maid). When Sander came, she was sent back, or put in another room; but when any of her Ladies were with her, we always sat together. Her Royal Highness was never attended by any livery servants, but she always walked about Blackheath and the neighbourhood only with her female attendants. In a short time, the Princess became so extravagantly fond of me, that, however flattering it might be, it certainly was very troublesome. Leaving her attendants below, she would push past my servant, and run up stairs into my bed-chamber, kiss me, take me in her arms, and tell me I was beautiful, saying she had never loved any woman so much; that she would regulate my dress, for she delighted in setting off a pretty woman; and such high-flown compliments that women are never used to pay to each other. I used to beg her Royal Highness not to feed my self-love, as we had all enough of that, without encouraging one another. She would then stop me, and enumerate all my good points I had, saying she was determined to teach me to set them off. She would exclaim, Oh! believe me, you are quite beautiful, different from almost any English woman; your arms are fine beyond imagination, your bust is very good, and your eyes, Oh, I never saw such eyes—all other women who have dark eyes look fierce, but yours (my dear Lady Douglas) are nothing but softness and sweetness, and yet quite dark. In this manner she went on perpetually, even be-

fore strangers. I remember when I was one morning at her house, with her Royal Highness, Mrs. Harcourt, and her ladies, the Duke of Kent came to take leave before his Royal Highness went to Gibraltar. When we were sitting at table, the Princess introduced me, and said—Your Royal Highness must look at her eyes; but now she has disguised herself in a large hat, you cannot see how handsome she is. The Duke of Kent was very polite and obliging, for he continued to talk with Mrs. Harcourt, and took little notice, for which I felt much obliged; but she persisted, and said—Take off your hat. I did not do it, and she took it off; but his Royal Highness, I suppose, conceiving it could not be very pleasant to me, took little notice, and talked of something else.

Whenever the Princess visited us, either Sir John, or I, returned home with her and her party quite to the door; and if he were out, I went with her Royal Highness, and took my footman; for we soon saw that her Royal Highness was a very singular and a very indiscreet woman, and we resolved to be always very careful and guarded with her; and when she visited us, if any visitor whosoever came to our house, they were put into another room, and they could not see the Princess, or be in her society, unless she positively desired it. However, her Royal Highness forgot her high station (and she was always forgetting it); we trust, and hope, and feel satisfied, we never for a moment lost sight of her being the wife of the Heir Apparent.

We passed our time as Her Royal Highness chose when together, and the usual amusements were—playing French Proverbs, in which the Princess always cast the parts, and played; Musical Magic, forfeits of all kinds; sometimes dancing; and in this manner, either the Princess and her Ladies with me, or we at Montague House, we passed our time. Twice, after spending the morning with me, she remained without giving me any previous notice, and would dine with us, and thus ended the year 1801.

In the month of February, before Miss Garth was to come into waiting in March 1802, the Princess, in one of her morning visits, after she had sent Sander home, said, "My dear Lady Douglas, I am come to see you this "morning to ask a great favour of you, which I hope you "will grant me." I told her, "I was sure she could not "make any unworthy request, and that I would only say, "I should have great pleasure in doing any thing to oblige "her, but I was really at a loss to guess how I possibly "could have it in my power to grant her a favour." Her Royal Highness replied "what I have to ask is for you to come and spend a fortnight with me; you shall not be separated from Sir John, for he may be with you whenever he pleases, and bring your little girl and maid. I mean you to come to the Round Tower, where there are a complete suite of rooms for a Lady and her servant. When Mrs. Lisle was in waiting, and hurt her foot, she resided there; Miss Heyman always was there, and Lord and Lady Lavington have slept there. When I have any married people visiting me, it is better than their being in the house, and we are only separated by a small garden. I dislike Miss Garth, and she hates to be with me, more than what her duty demands, and I don't wish to trouble any of my ladies out of their turn. I shall require you, as lady in waiting, to attend me in my walks; and when I drive out; write my notes and letters for me, and be in the way to speak to any one who may come on business. I seldom appear until about three o'clock, and you may go home before I want you after breakfast every day." I replied, that being a married woman, I could not promise for myself, and, as Sir John was much out of health, I should not like to leave him; but he was always so kind and good-natured to me, that I dared venture to say he would allow me if he could; and when he came home I asked him if I should go. Sir John agreed to the Princess's desire, and I took the waiting. During my stay I

attended Her Royal Highness to the play and the opera I think twice, and also to dine at Lord Dartmouth's and Mr. Windham's. At Mr. Windham's, in the evening, while one of the ladies was at the harpsichord, the Princess complained of being very warm, and called out for ale, which, by a mistake in the language, she always calls *oil.* Mrs. Windham was perfectly at a loss to comprehend her wishes, and came to me for an explanation. I told her I believed she meant ale. Mrs. Windham said she had none in the house; was it any particular kind she required? I told her I believed not; that when the Princess thought proper to visit me, she always wanted it, and I gave her what I had, or could procure for her upon Blackheath. We could not always suddenly obtain what was wished. Mrs. Windham then proposed to have some sent for, and did so; it was brought, and the Princess drank it all.—When at Lord Dartmouth's, his Lordship asked me if I was the only lady in waiting, being, I supposed, surprised at my appearing in that situation, when, to his knowledge, I had not known the Princess more than four months. I answered, I was at Montague House, acting as lady in waiting, until Miss Garth was well, as the Princess told me she was ill. Lord Dartmouth look'd surprised, and said he had not heard of Miss Garth being ill, and was surprised. I was struck with Lord Dartmouth's seeming doubt of Miss Garth's illness, and after, thought upon it. From the dinner we went at an early hour to the opera, and then returned to Blackheath. During this visit I was greatly surprised at the whole stile of the Princess of Wales's conversation, which was constantly very loose, and such as I had not been accustomed to hear; such as, in many instances, I have not been able to repeat, even to Sir John, and such as made me hope I should cease to know her, before my daughter might be old enough to be corrupted by her. I confess I went home hoping and believing she was at times a good deal disor-

dered in her senses, or she never would have gone on as she did. When she came to sup with me in the Tower (which she often did) she would arrive in a long red cloak, a silk handkerchief tied over her head under her chin, and a pair of slippers down at the heels.

After supper I attended her to the house. I found her a person without education or talents, and without any desire of improving herself. Amongst other things which surprised me while there, was a plan she told me she had in hand; that Prince William of Gloucester liked me, and that she had written to him, to tell him a fair lady was in her Tower, that she left it to his own heart to find out who it was, but if he was the gallant Prince she thought him, he would fly and see. I was amazed at such a contrivance, and said, Good God! how could your Royal Highness do so? I really like Sir John better than any body, and am quite satisfied and happy. I waited nine years for him, and never would marry any other person. The Princess ridiculed this, and said Nonsense, nonsense, my dear friend. In consequence of the Princess's note, Prince William actually rode the next morning to the Tower, but by good fortune Sir Sidney Smith had previously called and been admitted, and as we were walking by the house, her Royal Highness saw the Prince coming, went immediately out of sight, and ran and told a servant to say she and I were gone walking, and we immediately walked away to Charlton, having first, unperceived, seen Prince William ride back again, (of course not very well pleased, and possibly believing I had a hand in his ridiculous adventure.) It seems he was angry; for soon after his Royal Highness, the late Duke of Gloucester, came and desired to see the Princess, and told her, that his son William had represented to him how very free she permitted Sir Sidney Smith to be, and how constantly he was visiting at Montague House; that it rested with herself to keep her acquaintance at a proper distance,

and as Sir Sidney was a lively, thoughtless man, and had not been accustomed to the society of ladies of her rank, he might forget himself, and she would then have herself to blame—that as a father, and an earnest friend, he came to her, very sorry indeed to trouble her, but he conjured and begged her to recollect how very peculiar her situation was, and how doubly requisite it was she should be more cautious than other people. To end this lecture (as she called it) she rang the bell, and desired Mrs*. Cole to fetch me. I went into the drawing-room, where the Duke and Her Royal Highness were sitting, and she introduced me as an old friend of Prince William's. His Royal Highness got up, and looked at me very much, and then said, "The Princess has been talking a great deal about you, and tells me you have *made* one of the most delightful children in the world, and indeed it might well be so, when the mother was so handsome and good-natured-looking." By this time I was so used to these fine speeches, either from the Princess, or from her through others, that I was ready to laugh, and I only said, "We did not talk about much beauty, but my little girl was in good health, and Her Royal Highness was very obliging." As soon as His Royal Highness was gone, the Princess sent again for me, told me every word he had said, and said, "He is a good man, and therefore I took it as it was meant; but if Prince William had ventured to talk to me himself, I would certainly have boxed his ears: however, as he is so inquisitive, and watches me, I will cheat him, and throw the dust in his eyes, and make him believe Sir Sidney comes here to see you, and that you and he are the greatest possible friends. I delight of all things in cheating those clever people." Her speech and intentions made me serious, and my mind was forcibly struck with the great danger there would follow to myself, if she were this kind of per-

* Query, Mr. Cole.

son. I begged her not to think of doing such a thing, saying, Your Royal Highness knows it is not so, and although I would do much to oblige you, yet, when my own character is at stake, I must stop. Good God, Ma'am, His Royal Highness would naturally repeat it, and what should I do? Reputation will not bear being sported with. The Princess took me by the hand, and said, Certainly, my dear Lady Douglas, I know very well it is not so, and therefore it does not signify. I am sure it is not so, *that* I am sure of. I have much too good an opinion of you, and too good an opinion of Sir Sidney Smith. It would be very bad in him, after Sir John's hospitality to him. I know him incapable of such a thing, for I have known him a long time; but still I wonder too in the same house it does not happen. By this time I was rather vexed, and said, Your Royal Highness and I think quite differently—Sir Sidney Smith comes and goes as he pleases to his room in our house. I really see little of him. He seems a very good-humoured, pleasant man, and I always think one may be upon very friendly terms with men who are friends of one's husbands, without being their humble servants. The Princess argued upon this for an hour, said, This is Miss Garth's argument, but she was mistaken, and it was ridiculous. If ever a woman was upon friendly terms with any man, they were sure to become lovers. I said, I shall continue to think as Miss Garth did, and that it depended very much upon the lady. Upon the 29th of March, I left Montague House, and the Princess commanded me to be sent up to her bed-chamber. I went and found her in bed, and I took Mrs. Vansittart's note in my hand, announcing the news of Peace. She desired me to sit down close to the bed, and then, taking my hand, she said, "You see, my dear friend, I have the most complaisant "husband in the world—I have no one to controul *me*— "I see whom I like, I go where I like, I spend what I

" please, and His Royal Highness pays for all—Other " English husbands plague their wives, but he never " plagues me at all, which is certainly being very polite " and complaisant, and I am better off than my sister, " who was heartily beat every day. How much happier " am I than the Duchess of York! She and the Duke " hate each other, and yet they will be two hypocrites, " and live together—that I would never do.—Now I'll " shew you a letter wherein the Prince of Wales gives " me full leave to follow my own plans." She then put the letter into my hands, the particulars of which I have mentioned. When I had finished, I appeared affected, and she said, " You seem to think that a fine thing; now " I see nothing in it; but I dare to say that when my be- " loved had finished it, he fancied it one of the finest " pieces of penmanship in the world. I should have " been the man, and he the woman. I am a real " Brunswick, and do not know what the sensation Fear " is; but as to him, he lives in eternal warm water, and " delights in it, if he can but have his slippers under " any old Dowager's table, and sit there scribbling notes; " that's his whole delight." She then told me every circumstance relative to her marriage, and that she would be separated, and that she had invited the Chancellor very often lately, to try and accomplish it, but they were stupid, and told her it could not be done. It appeared to me that at this time Her Royal Highness's mind was bent upon the accomplishment of this purpose; and it would be found, I think, from Lord Eldon and the others, that she pressed this subject close upon them, whenever they were at Montague House; for she told me more than once she had*. Her Royal Highness, before she put the letter by, said, " I always keep this, " for it is ever necessary. I will go into the House of

* The Chancellor may now, perhaps, be able to grant her request.

N. B. *The passage contained in this Note is, in the authenticated Copy transmitted to the Princess of Wales, placed in the margin.*

" Lords with it myself. The Prince of Wales desires me " in that letter, to choose my own plan of life, and " amuse myself as I like; and also, when I lived in Carl " ton House, he often asked me why I did not select " some particular gentleman for my friend, and was sur- " prised I did not."—She then added, " I am not treated " at all as a Princess of Wales ought to be. As to the " friendship of the Duke of Gloucester's Family, " I understand that Prince William would like to " marry either my daughter or me, if he could. I " now therefore am desirous of forming a society of " my own choosing, and I beg you always to re- " member, all your life, that I shall always be happy to see " you. I think you very discreet, and the best woman " in the world, and I beg you to consider the Tower " always as your own; there are offices, and you might " almost live there; and if Sir John is ever called away, " do not go home to your family; it is not pleasant after " people have children, therefore always come to my " Tower. I hope to see you there very soon again. The " Prince has offered me sixty thousand if I'll go and live " at Hanover, but I never will; this is the only country " in the world to live in." She then kissed me, and I took my leave.

While I had been in the Round Tower in Montague House, which only consists of two rooms and a closet on a floor, I had always my maid and child slept within my room, and Sir John was generally with me; he and all my friends having free permission to visit. Mrs*. Cole (the Page) slept over my room, and a watchman went round the Tower all night.—Upon my return home, the same apparent friendship continued, and in one of Her Royal Highness's evening visits she told me, she was come to have a long conversation with me, that she had been in a great agitation, and I must guess what had happened to her. I guessed a great many things, but she said No,

* Query, Mr. Cole.

to them all, and then said I gave it up, for I had no idea what she could mean, and therefore might guess my whole life without success. "Well then, I must tell you," said Her Royal Highness, "but I am sure you know all the "while. I thought you had completely found me out, "and therefore I came to you, for you looked droll when "I called for ale and fried onions and potatoes, and "when I said I eat tongue and chickens at my break-"fasts; that I would sure as my life you suspected me; "tell me honestly, did you not?" I affected not to understand the Princess at all, and did not really comprehend her. She then said, "Well, I'll tell; I am with "child, and the child came to life when I was breakfast-"ing with Lady Willoughby. The milk flowed up into "my breast so fast, that it came through my muslin "gown, and I was obliged to pretend that I had spilt "something, and go up-stairs to wipe my gown with "a napkin, and got up-stairs into Lady Willoughby's "room, and did very well, but it was an unlucky adven-"ture. I was, indeed, most sincerely concerned for her, conceiving it impossible but she must be ruined, and I expressed my sorrow in the strongest terms, saying, what would she do? she could never carry such an affair through, and I then said, I hoped she was mistaken. She said No, she was sure of it, and these sort of things only required a good courage, that she should manage very well; but though she told me she would not employ me in the business, for I was like all the English women, so very nervous, and she had observed me so frightened a few days past, when a horse galloped near me, that she would not let me have any thing to do for the world. The Princess added, "You will be surprised to see how "well I manage it, and I am determined to suckle the "child myself." I expressed my great apprehensions, and asked her what she would do if the Prince of Wales seized her person, when she was a wet-nurse? She said she would never suffer any one to touch her person. She laughed at my fears, and added, "You know nothing

"about these things; if you had read *Les Avantures* "*du Chevalier de Grammont*, you would know better "what famous tricks Princesses and their Ladies played "then, and you shall and must read the story of Cathe-"rine Parr and a Lady Douglas of those times; have "you never heard of it?" She then related it, but as I never had heard of it, I looked upon it as her own invention to reconcile my mind to these kind of things. After this we often met, and the Princess often alluded to her situation and to mine, and one day as we were sitting together upon the sofa, she put her hand upon her stomach, and said, laughing, "Well, here we sit like Mary and Elizabeth, "in the Bible." When she was bled, she used to press me always to be, and used to be quite angry that I would not, and whatever she thought good for herself, always recommended to me. Her Royal Highness now took every occasion to estrange me from Sir John, by laughing at him, and wondering how I could be content with him; urged me constantly to keep my own room, and not to continue to sleep with him, and said, if I had any more children, she would have nothing more to say to me. Her design was evident, and easily seen through, and consequently averted. She naturally wished to keep us apart, lest, in a moment of confidence, I should repeat what she had divulged, and if she estranged me from my husband, she kept me to herself. I took especial care, therefore, that my regard for him should not be undermined. I never told him her situation, and, contrary to her wishes, Sir John and I remained upon the same happy terms we always had.

It will scarcely be credited, (nevertheless it is strictly true, and those who were present must avow it, or perjure themselves) what liberty the Princess gave both to her thoughts and her tongue, in respect to every part of the Royal Family. It was disgusting to us, beyond the power of language to describe, and upon such occasions we always believed and hoped she could not be aware of

what she was talking about, otherwise common family affection, common sense, and common policy, would have kept her silent. She said before the two Fitzgeralds, Sir Sidney Smith, and ourselves, that when Mr. Addington had his house given him, His Majesty did not know what he was about, and waved her hand round and round her head, laughing, and saying, "Certainly he did not; "but the Queen got twenty thousand, so that was all "very well." We were all at a loss, and no one said any thing. This was at my house one morning; the rest of the morning passed in abusing Mr. Addington (now Lord Sidmouth), and her critiques upon him closed by saying, "It was not much wonder a Peace was not last-"ing, when it was made by the son of a quack doctor." Before Miss Hamond, one evening at my house, she said, "Prince William is going to Russia, and there is to be "a grand alliance with a Russian Princess, but it is not "very likely a Russian Princess will marry the grandson "of a washerwoman." Sir Sidney Smith, who was present, begged her pardon, asserted it was not so, and wished to stop her, but she contradicted him, and entered into all she knew of the private history of the Duchess's mother, saying, "she was literally a common "washerwoman, and the Duchess need not to take so "much pains and not to expose her skin to the open air, "when her mother had been in it all day long." When she was gone, Sir John was very much disgusted, and said, Her conversation had been so low and ill-judged, and so much below her, that he was perfectly ashamed of her, and she disgraced her station. Sir Sidney Smith agreed, and confessed he was astonished, for it must be confessed she was not deserving of her station. After the Duke of Kent had been so kind as to come and take leave of her, before he last left England, upon the day I mentioned, she delivered her critique upon His Royal Highness, saying, "He had the manners of a Prince, but was

" a disagreeable man, and not to be trusted, and that His " Majesty had told him, ' Now, Sir, when you go to " Gibraltar, do not make such a trade of it as you did " when you went to Halifax.' The Princess repeated, " Upon my honour it is true; the King said, ' Do not " make such a trade of it.' She went on to say, " the " Prince at first ordered them all to keep away, but they " came now sometimes: however they were no loss, for " there is not a man among them all whom any one can " make their friend." As I was with the Princess one morning in her garden house, His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland waited upon her. As soon as he was gone she said, " He was a foolish boy, and had been " asking her a thousand foolish questions." She then told me every word of his secrets, which he had been telling her; in particular, a long story of Miss Keppel, and that he said, the old woman left them together, and wanted to take him in, and therefore he had cut the connection. She said, she liked his countenance best, but she could trace a little family likeness to herself; but for all the rest they were very ill made, and had plum-pudding faces, which she could not bear. His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge was next ridiculed. She said, " he looked exactly like a sergeant, and so vulgar with " his ears full of powder." This was her Royal Highness's usual and favorite mode of amusing herself and her company. The conversation was always about men, praising the English men, reviling all English women, as being the ugliest creatures in the world, and the worst, and always engaged in some project or another, as the impulse of the moment might prompt, without regard to consequences or appearances. Whether she amused other people in the same way, I know not, but she chose to relate to me every private circumstance she knew relative to every part of the Royal Family, and also every thing relative to her own, with such strange anecdotes,

and circumstantial accounts of things that never are talked of, that I again repeat, I hope I shall never hear again; and I remember once in my lying-in-room, she gave such an account of Lady Anne Wyndham's marriage, and all her husband said on the occasion, that Mrs. Fitzgerald sent her daughter out of the room, while her Royal Highness finished her story. Such was the person we found her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, and as we continued to see her character and faults, Sir John and myself more and more, daily and hourly, regretted that the world could not see her as we did, and that his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales should have lost *any popularity*, when, from her own account (the only account we ever had) *she* was the aggressor from the beginning, herself *alone*, and I, as an humble individual, declare, that from the most *heartfelt* and unfeigned conviction, that I believe, if any other married woman had acted as her Royal Highness has done, I never yet have known a man who could have endured it; and her temper is so tyrannical, capricious, and furious, that no man on earth will ever bear it; and, in private life, any woman who had thus played and sported with her husband's comfort and her husband's popularity, would have been turned out of her house, or left by herself in it, and would deservedly have forfeited her place in society. I therefore again beg leave to repeat, from the conviction of my own unbiassed understanding, and the conviction of my own eyes, no human being could live with her, excepting her servants for their wages; and any poor unfortunate woman like the Fitzgeralds, for their dinner; and I trust and hope her real character will sometime or another be displayed, that the people of this country may not be imposed upon. The Princess was now sometimes kind and at others churlish, especially if I would not fall into her plans of ridiculing Sir John. About this time, one day at table

with her, she began abusing Lady Rumbold (whom she had invited to see her a few days before, to give her letters of recommendation if she went to Brunswick), and as the abuse was in the usual violent vulgar stile, and I had never seen Lady Rumbold but that one morning when she was her Royal Highness's guest, and cared nothing about her, I did not join in reviling her and Miss Rumbold. Sir Sidney Smith was present, and as there appeared a great friendship between the Rumbolds and him, I thought it not civil to him to say any thing, and one always conceives, in being quite silent, one must be safe from offending any party. I was, however, mistaken; for, observing me silent, she looked at me in a dreadful passion, and said, "Why don't you speak, Lady Douglas, I know you think her ugly as well as us—a vulgar common milliner; Lord Heavens! that she was; and her daughter looks just like a girl that walk up the street." I suppose she expected, by this thundering appeal, to force me to join in the abuse; but it had a contrary effect upon me. I chose to judge entirely for myself, and I was determined I would not; therefore, when she had raved until she could go on no longer, I said I did not think her ugly; it was a harsh term.—I thought her manner very bad, and that she was very ill-dressed; but, when young, I thought she must have been a pretty woman. This was past her power of enduring, which I really did not know, or I would have remained silent. She fixed her eyes furiously upon me, and bawled out, "Then you're a liar, you're a liar, and the little child you're going to have will be a liar." I pushed my plate from me, eat no more, and remained silent, and my first impulse was to push back my chair and quit the house, but the idea that I should break up the party from table, and make a confusion, and also my not being able to walk home, and my carriage not being ordered until night, left me in my chair. The conversation was changed; at last, Sir Sidney said again, "Well,

these Ladies have had a severe trimming, they had better not have come to Blackheath, and there sits poor Lady Douglas, looking as if she were going to be executed." As I was very far advanced in my pregnancy, it agitated me greatly, and I remained aloof and very shy all the evening. When I afterwards wrote to Sir Sidney Smith for Sir John, upon some common occurrence, I said, I do not like the Princess of Wales's mode of treating her guests: her calling me a liar was an unpardonable thing, and if she ever speaks upon the subject to you, pray tell her I did not like it, and that if I had been a man, I would have rather died than endured it; that it is a thing which never, by any chance, occurs to a Lady; on a repetition of it I will give up her acquaintance. It seems Sir Sidney Smith spoke to the Princess upon the subject; for two days before I was confined, she made me a morning visit with the two Fitzgeralds, and, after having sat a short time, said, " I find you were very much affronted the other day at my house, when I called you a liar; I declare I did not mean it as an affront; Lord Heavens! in any other language it is considered a joke; is it not Mrs. Fitzgerald?" meaning, that in Germany it is a very good joke to call people liars (for Mrs. Fitzgerald does not know any language but German and English); Mrs. Fitzgerald absolutely said, Yes. They made me very nervous, and I burst into tears, and told the Princess I only wished her to understand such a thing was never done, and was far from desiring her to apologize to me; that I had now forgiven and forgotten it, though I confess, at the time, I was very much hurt, and very much wounded; that as I never heard of its being thought a joke in any country, I was not in the least prepared to receive it in that light; for that, in this country, ladies never used the expression, and men only to shew their greatest contempt; that I never bore malice twelve hours in my life, and there was an end of the matter. The Fitzgeralds sat by

sometimes as audience, approving by looks; sometimes as orators, begging me not to cry, (after they had all made me), and praising her Royal Highness as the most magnanimous, amiable, good, beautiful, and gracious Princess in the world. In short, they tormented me till they made me quite hysterical; and the Princess began then to be frightened, and they all got up to look about the room for hartshorn, or something of that kind, to give me—the Princess crying, "Give her something, give her something; she is very much shook, and her nerves agitated; she will be taken ill." They gave me some water, I believe, and I did all I could to recover my spirits; but I felt in pain, and Sir John came in soon after, and as I knew it would hurry him if he saw me ill, I appeared as cheerful as I could, and they all went away, the Princess taking no notice to him. Her Royal Highness had always said, she would be at my lying-in from the beginning to the end, and commanded me constantly to let her know, saying, "I have no fear about me, and I would as soon come over the Heath in the middle of the night as in the day; I shall have a bottle of port wine on a table to keep up your spirits, a tambourine, and I'll make you sing." I was unwell all the night after her Royal Highness had been with me, and remained so all next day; and next morning, by six o'clock, was so ill, that Dr. Mackie, of Lewisham, who was to attend me, was sent for. In the forenoon I begged Sir John to write a note to Montague House, where it so happened I was to have dined with the party. He wrote that I had a head-ache, and begged leave to remain at home, and the Princess believed it, and went to town; but upon her return, at five o'clock in the afternoon, she called before she went home to dress, to ask after me, and finding how it was, wanted to run up into the room, but Dr. Mackie said positively she should not come, and locked the door nearest him to keep her out. Miss Cholmondeley and Miss Fitzgerald were drove home,

and her Royal Highness and Mrs. Fitzgerald stopped. Upon my giving a loud shriek she flew in at the other door, and came to me, doing every thing she possibly could to assist me, and held my eyes and head. The moment she heard the child's voice she left me, flew round to Dr. Mackie, pushed the nurse away, and received the child from Doctor Mackie, kissed it, and said no one should touch it until she had shewn it to me. Doctor Mackie was so confused and astonished, that, although an old practitioner he left the room, without giving me any thing to recruit my strength and avert fainting, as is the custom, and the nurse gave me what she thought best; by which omission, however, I was not subject to faint away, but it was certainly a new mode of proceeding where life is at stake, and shewed more curiosity than tenderness for me. Before my little girl was brought to me, I observed, as her Royal Highness stood holding it, that Mrs. Fitzgerald, the Nurse, and herself, were all intent, and speaking together, as if there was something peculiar in its appearance; the circumstance alarmed me, fearing it was born with some defect, and I asked eagerly to see it, and if all was right. The Princess upon this brought it to me, and said it was a remarkable large fine child, and they were only looking at a mark it had upon its left breast, certainly a very large one, and a little on its eyes, but it would go off. I recollected that, although I never, when in a pregnant state, was subject to whims, longing, as thinking it very troublesome and foolish, yet I felt obliged, in this instance, to believe the old-received opinion to be correct; for it happened, that during my visit at Montague House in March, I was one Sunday morning very much incommoded by pains in my chest and stomach, and Her Royal Highness made Mrs. Sander give me some warm peppermint-water; there was raspberry-ice in the desert the same day, and I had just began to eat mine, when the Princess looked at me, and said, My dear

Lady Douglas, you have forgotten the pain you were in this morning; and, turning to her page, ordered him to take away my plate.

(Signed) CHARLOTTE DOUGLAS.
JOHN DOUGLAS.

In the presence of me,
(Signed)
AUGUSTUS FREDERICK,
Dec. 3, 1805.

A true Copy,
(Signed) *B. Bloomfield.*

—— Mr. Cole, the page, removed, and I can never describe my disappointment, I was almost inclined to remonstrate, although there was a large party of strangers, and I did express a desire to retain it, but the Princess would not allow of it: and as she had appointed herself to the sole management of me, I was obliged to be quiet: My uneasiness, however, became extreme, and forgetting every thing but the ice in question, I asked a Mr. Hamer who sat next to me, to be so good as to ask for some ice, and, by dint of asking him to do so, I at length induced him, and at last he asked Lady Townshend for some more ice. I immediately took my spoon, and stooping a little, so that the flowers upon the plateau concealed me in part from the Princess, eat all Mr. Hamer's ice, while he looked on laughing, and put his plate a little nearer to me that it might not look so odd. The following day I eat eight glasses of raspberry-ice at once, and was very well after it: and from that time sought it every where, and eat of it voraciously; and I cannot help attributing the marks of my little girl to the circumstance. Her Royal Highness then kissed me, begged me to send for her whenever I liked, and she would come; desired I might have plenty of flannel about me, of which she had sent

me some by Mrs. Fitzgerald, and then went home to dinner. I know not what she said or did among her party at home, but Miss Cholmondeley often said she should never forget the Princess on that day. All the month of August the Princess visited me daily; in one of these visits, after she had sent Mrs. Fitzgerald away, she drew her chair close to the bed, and said, "I am delighted to see how well and easily you have got through this affair; I, who am not the least nervous, shall make nothing at all of it. When you hear of my having taken children in baskets from poor people, take no notice; that is the way I mean to manage: I shall take any that offer, and the one I have will be presented in the same way, which, as I have taken others, will never be thought any thing about." I asked her, how she would ever get it out of the house? but she said, Oh, very easily. I said it was a perilous business; I would go abroad if I were her; but she laughed at my fears, and said she had no doubt but of managing it all very well. I was very glad she did not ask me to assist her, for I was determined in my own mind never to do so, and she never did make any request of me, for which I was very thankful. I put the question to her, Who she would get to deliver her? but she did not answer for a minute, and then said, I shall get a person over; I'll manage it, but never ask me about it; Sander was a good creature, and being immediately about her person and sleeping near her room, must be told; but Miss Ghaunt must be sent to Germany, and the third maid, a young girl, kept out of the way as well as they could. I suggested, I was afraid her appearance at St. James's could not fail to be observed, and she would have to encounter all the Royal Family. Her reply was, That she knew how to manage her dress, and by continually increasing large cushions behind, no one would observe, and fortunately the Birth-days were over, until she should have got rid of her appearance. In this manner passed all the time

of my confinement, at the end of which she sent Mrs. Fitzgerald to attend me to Church, and when I went to pay my duty to Her Royal Highness, after I went abroad again, she told me, whenever I was quite stout, she would have the child christened, that she meant to stand in person, and I must find another godmother; Sir Sidney Smith would be the godfather. I named the Duchess of Athol, as a very amiable woman, of suitable rank, and said, that as there had been a long friendship betwixt Sir John's family and the Athol family, I knew it would be very agreeable to him. Finding they were gone to Scotland, we wrote to ask her Grace; and she wrote word she would stand godmother with great pleasure, and enclosed ten guineas for the nurse. The Princess invited Sir Sidney Smith, and Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Smith, and Baron Herbert, and Sir John Douglas, to dine with her. Miss Cholmondeley and the two Fitzgeralds were with her Royal Highness, and in the evening they all came; I staid at home to receive her. The Clergyman from Lewisham christened the child; the Princess named it Caroline Sidney. As soon as he was gone (which was shortly after the ceremony was over), the Princess sat down upon the carpet—a thing she was very fond of doing, in preference to sitting upon the chairs, saying, it was the pleasantest lively affair altogether she had ever known. She chose to sit upon the carpet the whole evening, while *we* all sat upon the chairs. Her Royal Highness was dressed in the lace dress which, I think, she wore at Frogmore fete—pearl necklace, bracelets, and armbands, a pearl bandeau round her head, and a long lace veil. When supper was announced, her Royal Highness went in and took the head of the table, and eat an amazing supper of chicken and potted lamprey, which she would have served to her on the same plate, and eat them together. After the supper she called the attention of the party to my good looks, and saying I was as lively

and *espiegle* as ever; said, that I had such sharp eyes, I found her out in every thing, adding, Oh! she found me out one day in such a thing when I was at luncheon, and gave me a look which was so expressive, that I was sure she knew. This speech, which she, between herself and me, was algebra to the party. I did not know what to do, but I saw the secret cost her dear to keep, and she was ready to betray it to any one she met, by the strange things she said and did; I laughed and said, if my eyes have been too observing I am sorry, I never intended them to be; I cannot be quite so polite as to say, "if my sight offends I will put it out," because I think with Sheridan, that the prejudice is strongly in favour of two; but depend upon it, at all future luncheons I will do nothing but eat. She was in great spirits, staid until two o'clock in the morning, and then, attended by Miss Cholmondeley and the Fitzgeralds, went home. Her Royal Highness's civilities continued; she desired me constantly to bring my children to Montague House, and also the infant; and when I would have retired to suckle it, she would not suffer me, but commanded me to do it in the drawing-room where she was; and she came with her ladies visiting me both mornings and evenings, and nursing little Caroline for hours together. I saw now the Princess had told Mrs. Sander, who, I believe, was a very quiet good kind of woman, and her countenance was full of concern and anxiety. She appeared desirous of speaking to me, and was unusually obsequious: but the Princess always watched us both close; if Sander came into a room, and I went towards her, the Princess came close, or sent one or another away, so that I could never speak to her. The Princess had now quarrelled with Sir Sidney Smith, to whom she had been so partial, and to every part of whose family she had been so kind, telling us constantly that she liked them all, because old Mr. Smith had saved the Duke of

Brunswick's life. As Sir John was Sir Sidney's friend, she therefore was shy of us all, and we saw little of her—but on the 30th of October I went to call upon her before I left Blackheath, and met her Royal Highness just returned from church, walking before her own house with Mrs. Fitzgerald and her daughter, dressed in a long Spanish velvet cloak and an enormous muff, but which together could not conceal the state she was in, for I saw directly she was very near her time, and think I must have seen it if I had not known her situation. She appeared morose, and talked a little, but did not ask to go in, and after taking a few turns returned home. In about a fortnight we received a note, the Princess requesting neither Sir John or I to go to Montague House, as her servants were afraid some of the children she had taken had the measles, and if any infection remained about the house, we might carry it to our child. We wrote a note expressive of our thanks for her obliging precautions, and that we would not go to Montague House, until we had the honor of receiving her Royal Highness's commands. The Princess never sent for us, and when I left my card before I went to pass Christmas in Gloucestershire, I was not admitted; so that *I never saw her after the* 13*th** *of October*; but I heard the report of her having adopted an infant, and Miss Fitzgerald told it me as she rode past my house, but would not come in, *for fear she should bring the measles.* Upon my return to Blackheath in January, I called to pay my duty. I found her packing a small black box, and an infant sleeping on a sofa, with a piece of scarlet cloth thrown over it. She appeared confused, and hesitated whether she should be rude or kind, but recovering herself, chose to be the latter; said, she was happy to see me, and then taking me by the hand led me to the sofa, and uncovering the child, said, Here is the little boy, I had him two days after I saw you last; is not it a nice little child? the upper part of his face is very

* 30th.

fine. She was going to have said more, when Mrs. Fitzgerald opened the door and came in. The Princess consulted what I had better have, what would be good for me. I declined any thing, but she insisted upon it I should have some soup, and said, my dear Fitzgerald, pray go out and order some nice brown soup to be brought here for Lady Douglas. I saw from this the Princess wished to have spoken to me more fully, and Mrs. Fitzgerald saw it likewise, for instead of obeying, she rung the bell for the soup, and then sat down to tell me the whole fable of the child having been brought by a poor woman from Deptford, whose husband had left her, that Mr. Stikeman the Page, had the honour of bringing it in, that itwas a poor little ill-looking thing when first brought, but now, with such great care, was growing very pretty, and that as Her Royal Highness was so good, and had taken the twins (whose father would not let them remain) and taken this, all the poor people would be bringing children. The Princess now took the child up, and I was entertained the whole morning by seeing it fed, and *every service of every kind performed for it by Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales.* Mrs. Fitzgerald aired the napkins, and *the Princess put them on*; and from this time the drawing-rooms at Montague House, were literally in the stile of a common nursery. The tables were covered with spoons, plates, feeding-boats, and clothes, round the fire; napkins were hung to air, and the *marble hearths were strewed with napkins which were taken from the child*; for, very extraordinary to relate, *this* was a part of the ceremony *Her Royal Highness was particularly tenacious of always performing herself*, let the company be who they might. At first the child slept with her she told me, but it made her nervous, and therefore a nurse was hired to assist in taking charge of it, and for him to sleep with. The Princess said one day to me as she was nursing him, he had a little milk for two or three

days, but it did not do, so we bring him up by hand with all kind of nourishing things, and you see how well he thrives; so that I really always supposed she had attempted to suckle it. Another time she shewed me his hand, which has a pink mark upon it, and said, it was very singular *both our children* should be marked, and she thought *her child's* came from her having some wine thrown on her hand, for she did not look much at little Caroline's mark. The Princess now adopted a new mode of inviting us to see her. She would invite either Sir John or I, but never both together as formerly. I concluded from *this*, that as she found it so difficult to keep *even her own secret*, she could ill imagine I had been able *to keep hers*, and therefore under the impression that by *that time* I must have told Sir John, did not like to meet both our eyes; and if she saw Sir John without me, could better judge by his looks and manner whether I had divulged or not. I conclude she was at length satisfied I had not: for we were one morning both invited again in the former manner, to a breakfast, and as it was a very curiously arranged party, I will put down the names, for to the person who is to peruse this detail, it will confirm the idea that Her Royal Highness cannot always know correctly what she is about. When we entered, the Princess was sitting upon the sofa, elegantly dressed in a white and silver drapery, which covered her head and fell all over her person, and she had her little boy upon her knee elegantly dressed likewise. The guests were, Her Royal Highness Princess Charlotte of Wales, with Miss Hunt, her Governess, Captain Manby, of the Navy, Mr. Spencer Smith, the Fitzgeralds, and ourselves. She got up and nursed the child, and carrying it to Sir John, said, "Here, Sir John, this is the Deptford boy, I suppose "you have heard I have taken a little child." Sir John only said, Yes, he had, and it seemed a fine baby. She seemed pleased and satisfied that I had not told him, and

then sat down to table, putting a chair for Princess Charlotte on her right hand, taking me by the hand and putting me on her left hand, told Captain Manby to sit at the top, and Mr. Spencer Smith at the bottom, and Sir John and the Fitzgeralds faced us. Princess Charlotte had a plain dinner prepared for her in another room, according to custom, and came in when our desert was placed, when we all sat down again as we were sitting, except Miss Hunt, who was never ordered to sit, but stood a few yards from Princess Charlotte. About five o'clock Her Royal Highness rose from table, the little boy was brought in again, Princess Charlotte played with it, and the Princess of Wales wished all of us a good morning, and we broke up, totally at a loss to conceive what amusement it could be to collect us together. This breakfast was a kind of *finale.* We had very little intercourse. Her Royal Highness would walk past our house, for the express purpose of shewing she did not mean to come in, and when we did see her she always abused Sir Sidney Smith. Often said, she wondered I liked to live at such a dull place as Blackheath, and in short, gave us hints we could not misunderstand, that she wanted us away. At this time Sir John received a letter from his division, expressive of the General's wish that he would go to Plymouth, and therefore (without an Admiralty Order) he determined to go to emancipate ourselves from the Princess of Wales, and as soon as we could dispose of the furniture, I followed him, leaving the house empty, which was ours three months after I quitted it. The day Sir John was to set off, the Princess walked to our house, and though his trunks were in the room, and he was occupied, would have him sit down and talk to her, *overpowering* him and myself *now* with kindness, and said, she could eat something. She did so, staid four hours in the house, and at parting, took Sir John by both hands, wished him every good wish, and begged him always to

recollect how happy she should be to see him again, and that she would be *very kind to me in his absence*; however, after he was gone, she never came near me, or offered me any kind of civility whatsoever. When I was upon the eve of departure, called upon her and took her god-daughter and my other little girl with me. She was almost uncivil, and paid little or no attention if I spoke. I said the children were with me, but she did not answer, and after speaking four or five hours very unpleasantly, suffering all the unpleasant feeling of being where I had been courted and idolized, I begged permission at last to go away. When I went out, to my surprise, I found the children had been kept in the passage near the front door, with the door open to Blackheath, in a December day, with four opposite doors opened and shut upon them, instead of being taken to the housekeeper's room, as they always had been. My maid had at length begged the footman to go to a fire, as the children cried dreadfully, and were very cold. I understand the man was a footman, of the name of Gaskin, I think, and his answer was, if the children are cold, you can put them back into the carriage, and warm them. I took them home immediately, and was inclined to return and ask why they had been thus all of a sudden treated with this brutality and impertinence, and which was doubly cruel in Sir John's absence; but I deferred going until I meant to take my final leave, which I did on the following Sunday. Doctor Burnaby was standing in the hall with every thing prepared for the Princess to receive the sacrament. I was ushered through notwithstanding, and the footmen seemed to go to and fro as much at their ease, as if no such thing was preparing. She was standing in the drawing room, and received me with Mrs. Lisle and Mrs. Fitzgerald. I said I should have been gone before, had it been in my power, and in compliance with her commands, had come to take my leave. She did not ask me

to sit down, but said—God bless you; good bye. I then said, I was much concerned I had brought my little girls a few days past, and that I should never have done so, but from her Royal Highness's repeated desire. She said, she was sorry; and asked, who used them so. I told her, one of her livery servants, and Sir John would not like to hear of it. Her Royal Highness said, stop a moment; flew past me through the hall where Doctor Burnaby stood waiting for her, up to her own room, and returned with a white-paper box, pushing it into my hand—God bless you, my dear Lady Douglas. I said, I wished to decline taking any thing, that my object in coming there was to offer her my duty, and tell her how ill my children had been used. I could not conceive how any footman could use the freedom of treating Sir John's children so, unless he had been desired. She only answered, "Oh! no, indeed: good bye." I attempted to put the box into her hands, saying I had rather not have it; but she dropt her hands and turned away. I therefore wished Mrs. Lisle and Miss Fitzgerald good morning, and went away. Doctor Burnaby spoke to me as I passed him, and, looking back, I saw her Royal Highness's head; she was looking out after me, to see if she had fairly got rid of me, and laughing immoderately at Dr. Burnaby in his gown, I quitted her house, resolved never to re-enter it but for forms-sake, and wrote her word, that as I had long been treated rudely, and my children, whom she courted to her house, were now insulted there, I felt a dislike to accepting a present thrown at me, as it were, under such unpleasant circumstances; that I had not untied the box, and requested she would permit me to return it; and that as I was an English Gentlewoman, and defied her to say she had ever seen a single impropriety, in my conduct, I would never suffer myself to be ill used without a clear explanation. The Princess wrote back a most haughty imperious reply, desiring more

keep the box, stiled herself Princess of Wales in almost every line, and insulted me to such a degree, that I returned an answer insisting upon her explaining herself. This she returned me unopened, saying, she would not open my second letter, and had therefore sent it to me to put in the fire, and that she was ready to put the matter in oblivion, as she desired me to do, wished me and my dear little children well, and should at all times be glad to see her former neighbour. I did as she desired, and went away at Christmas without ever seeing or hearing more of Her Royal Highness, and found in the paper box a gold necklace, with a medallion suspended from it of a mock.

Thus ended my intercourse, for the present, with the Princess of Wales, and the year 1803.

When we resided in Devonshire, seeing by the papers that Her Royal Highness was ill, we sent a note of enquiry to the lady in waiting, which was answered very politely, and even in a friendly manner by Her Royal Highness's orders. Upon the arrival of the Duke of Sussex from abroad, Sir John returned to town to attend him, and when we drove to Blackheath to see our friends, I left my card for Her Royal Highness, who was visiting Mr. Canning; the moment she returned home she commanded Mrs. Vernon to send me word never to repeat my visits to Blackheath. I gave Sir John the note, and must confess, accustomed as I had been to her haughty overbearing caprice, yet this exceeded my belief of what she was capable of, being so inconsistent with her two last letters; but the fact was, she thought we were gone above 200 miles from her, and should be there for many years, and she never calculated upon the return of His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, having very often told me His Royal Highness would never live in England, in His Majesty's life-time; that she was certain of that, and had reasons for knowing it; and Sir John would never have him here. I suppose she had taken this into her head, be-

cause she wished it; and, therefore, the return of His Royal Highness was a mortal death-blow to all her hopes on this score; and when she found that His Royal Highness was not only returned, but that Sir John was in attendance, and that His Royal Highness was in Carlton House, where Sir John might see, and have the honour of being made known to the Prince of Wales, her *fear* and *rage* got the better of every prudent consideration, and she commanded Mrs. Vernon to dismiss me as I have mentioned. Had the Princess of Wales written to me herself, and told me, in a civil manner, that she would thank me to keep away, I should have acquainted her, that I wished and desired to do so, and had only called for the sake of appearances, and there the matter would have ended; unless I had ever been called upon (as I am now) by His Majesty, or the Heir Apparent. *In that case*, as in this, I should have made it my sacred duty to have answered, as upon my oath; but the circumstance of being driven out of her house by the hands of the lady in waiting, as if I had deserved it, and as if I were a culprit, was wounding one with a poisoned arrow, which left the wound to fester after it had torn and stabbed me; it was a refinement in insult, for the Princess had always been in the habit of writing to me *herself*, and had commanded me never to hold intercourse with her through her ladies, but *always* directly to *herself;* and so particular were her directions and permission upon this head, that she told me never to put my letters under cover, but always direct them to herself. I felt so miserable, that Mrs. Vernon, to whom I was known, and for whom Sir John and myself had an esteem, should think ill of me, and I therefore wrote to the Princess, saying, "From the moment she judged proper to come into my family, I had always conducted myself towards Her Royal Highness with the respect her high station demanded; and that when she forced her

secrets upon me, I had (whatsoever my sentiments were) kept them most honourably for her, never yet having even told Sir John, although I gave him my full confidence in all other things; nor had I even, under my present aggravation, imparted it, or meant;—that after such generous conduct on my part, I was at a loss to conceive what she proposed to *herself* by persecuting me; that I was afflicted at being so placed in the opinion of a good woman, like Mrs. Vernon, and who was free to say what she pleased upon the subject *every where;* that it was half as bad to be *thought* ill of as to deserve it; and that I would wait upon Mrs. Vernon, and detail to her a circumstantial account of every thing which had occurred since I had known her Royal Highness; and I would acquaint my husband and family with the same, and leave them, and the circle of my friends, to judge betwixt her Royal Highness and myself; that I would not lie under an imputation of having done wrong; and I took my leave of Her Royal Highness *for ever*, only first regretting I had ever known her, and thankful to be emancipated from Montague House, and that she owed it to me to have, at least, dismissed me in a civil manner, by her *own hands.*" This letter her Royal Highness returned unopened; but, from its appearance, I had strong reason to believe she had read it. I was resolved, however, if she had not, she should be taught better, as she might not treat any other person so ill as she had me, and my mind was bent upon speaking to Mrs. Vernon; I was nearly certain, if I wrote to Mrs. Vernon, the Princess would make her send my letter back, and therefore I wrote Mrs. Fitzgerald nearly a copy of what I sent her Royal Highness, and called upon *her*, as she had been always present, to say, if she ever saw any thing in my behaviour to justify any rudeness towards me; that I was precisely what the Princess found me, when the Princess walked up *to her knees in snow to seek my acquaintance*, and precisely *the same in-*

diviaual whom she had thought worthy of the strongest proofs of her friendship, and whose lying-in she had attended in so particular a manner, and had thought worthy of shedding tears over; that Her Royal Highness had thought proper to confide in me a secret, of very *serious importance to* herself; and I would not, after acting in the most honourable manner to *her*, be dismissed by a lady in waiting; and I meant to be at Montague House, and have a satisfactory conversation with Mrs. Vernon; and therefore she would be so good as acquaint Her Royal Highness with the contents of my letter, or lay it before Her Royal Highness. Mrs. Fitzgerald sent back a confused note, saying, she could not shew the Princess my letter, unless she was called upon; and when she opened it her disappointment was great, for she expected to have found respectful inquiries after Her Royal Highness's finger (which was hurt when she went to see Mr. Canning), and that I might make my mind easy, as ladies in waiting never repeated any thing; and she was astonished I had thrown out such a hint. A day or two after a note was sent to Sir John, as if nothing had happened, requesting him to go to Montague House. The servant who brought it drove Mrs. Vernon from Blackheath home to her own house in town, and I have no doubt it will be found (if inquiry is made) that Mrs. Vernon was put prematurely out of her waiting, lest I should explain with her. Sir John obeyed Her Royal Highness's summons, and she received him in the most gracious pleasant manner, taking as much pains to please and flatter him *now* as she had formerly done by me, and began a conversation with him relating to a General Innes, of the Marines, whom the Admiralty thought proper, with many others, to put upon the retired list; she exprest an ardent desire to get that officer reinstated, and consulted Sir John, as belonging to the same corps, how she could accomplish such an undertaking. Sir John listened to her attentively, and made

her short and very polite answers, acquainting her no such thing was ever done. She then said she must speak to Lord Melville about it, as it was a hard case. The luncheon was then announced, and she ordered Sir John to attend herself and the ladies. Sir John found Mrs. Vernon was sent off, and a lady was there whom he did not know, but thought was Lady Carnarvon. When they were all seated Sir John remained on his legs, and she looked anxiously at him, and said, " My dear Sir John, sit down and eat." He bowed, with distant respect, and said, he could not eat; that he was desirous of returning to town; and if Her Royal Highness had no further business with him, he would beg leave to go. The Princess looked quite disconcerted, and said, What not eat any thing, not sit down; pray take a glass of wine then. He bowed again as before, and repeated that he could neither eat nor drink. Well then, she said, " Come again soon, my dear Sir John; always glad to see you." Sir John made no reply, bowed and left the room. I now received, by the twopenny post, a long anonymous letter, written, by this restless mischievous person, the Princess of Wales, in which, in language which any one who had ever heard her speak, would have known to be hers, she called me all kind of names, impudent, *silly*, *wretched*, *ungrateful*, and illiteral (meaning illiterate), she tells me to take *that*, and it will mend my *ill temper*, &c. &c. &c. and says, she is a person high in this government, and has often an opportunity of * freely with His Majesty, and she thinks my conduct authorizes her to tell him off, and that *she* is my only true and *integer friend*. Such is the spirit of this foreigner, which would have disgraced a house-maid to have written, and it encloses a fabricated anonymous letter, which she pretends to have received, and upon which she built her doubts and disapprobation of me, as it advises her not to trust me, for that I am indiscreet, and tell every body that the child she took from Deptford, was her own.

* So in the authenticated copy; some words seem omitted.

The whole construction of both these epistles, from beginning to end, are evidently that of a foreigner, and a very ignorant one, and the vulgarity of it is altogether quite shocking. In one part she exclaims that she did not think I should have had the *impudence* to come *on her door* again, and tells me 'tis for my being *indiscreet and not having allowed her to call me a liar*, that she treats me *thus*, and that I would do well to remember the story of *Henry the Eighth's Queen, and Lady Douglas*. I was instantly satisfied it was from her Royal Highness the Princess of Wals, and that Mrs. Fitzgerald had shewn her my letter, and this was her answer to it. I immediately carried it to Sir John Douglas, who said he was sure it came from the Princess, and he shewed it to Sir Sidney Smith, who said, every word and expression in it were those which the Princess of Wales constantly used. Sir John desired me now to give him a full explanation of what her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales had confided to me, and whether I had ever mentioned it. I gave him my solemn word of honour it had never passed my lips. and I was only now going to utter it at his positive desire. That Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales told me she was with child, and that it came to life at Lady Willoughby's, that if she was discovered she would give the Prince of Wales the credit, for she slept at Carlton House twice the year she was pregnant; that she often spoke of her situation, compared herself and me to Mary and Elizabeth, and told me when she shewed me the child, that it was the little boy she had two days after I last saw her, that was the 30th of October; therefore her son was born upon the 1st of November, and I take a retrospect view of things after I knew the day of his birth, and found Her Royal Highness must have gone down stairs and dined with all the Chancellors about the fourth day after she was delivered, with the intention if discovered of having them all to say they dined with her

in perfect health so early in November, that it could not be. Sir John recollected all her whims, and went over her whole conduct, and he firmly believes her to be *the mother of the reputed Deptford child.* I then acquainted him of the pains she had taken to estrange my mind and affections from him, and he saw her pursuit of now changing sides, and endeavouring to estrange him from me, lest if we lived in a happy state of confidence, I might make known her situation to him; and we agreed, that as we had no means of communicating at present with His Majesty, or the Heir Apparent, we must wait patiently until called upon to bring forward her conduct, as there seemed little doubt we should one day be. Finding that Sir John Douglas did not choose to visit where his wife was discarded and hurt in the estimation of her acquaintance, her fury became so unbounded, that she sought what she could do most atrocious, wicked, and inhuman, she reached her* it would seem, and the result was, she made two drawings with a pen and ink, and sent them to us by the twopenny post, representing me as having disgraced myself with his old friend Sir Sidney Smith. They are of the most indecent nature, drawn with her own hand, and words upon them in her own hand-writing. Sir John, Sir Sidney, and myself, can all swear point blank without a moment's hesitation; and if Her Royal Highness is a subject and amenable to the laws of this country (and I conceive her to be so) she ought to be tried and judged by those laws for doing thus, to throw firebrands into the bosom of a quiet family. My husband, with that cool good sense which has ever marked his character, and with a belief in my innocence, which nothing but facts can stagger (for it is founded upon my having been faithful to him nine years before we were married, and seven years since), as well as his long acquaintance with Sir Sidney Smith's character and disposition, and having seen the Princess of Wales's loose and

* A blank in the authenticated copy.

vicious character, put the letters in his pocket, and went instantly to Sir Sidney Smith. Sir Sidney was as much astonished as we had been. Sir John then told him, he put the question to him, and expected an answer such as an officer and gentleman ought to give to his friend: Sir Sidney Smith gave Sir John his hand, as his old friend and companion, and assured him, in the most solemn manner, as an officer and gentleman, that the whole was the most audacious and wicked calumny; and he would swear to its being the hand-writing of the Princess of Wales; and that he believed Lady Douglas to be the same virtuous domestic woman he thought her, when Sir John first made him known to her. Sir Sidney added, "I never said a word to your wife, but what you might have heard; and had I been so base as to attempt any thing of the kind under your roof, I should deserve for you to shoot me like a mad dog. I am ready to go with Lady Douglas and youself, and let us ask her what she means by it; confront her." Accordingly Sir John wrote a note to the lady in waiting, which was to this effect: "Sir John and Lady Douglas, and Sir Sidney Smith, present their compliments to the lady in waiting, and request she will have the goodness to say to Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, that they are desirous of having an audience of Her Royal Highness immediately." We received no answer to this note; but, in a few days, an answer was sent to Sir Sidney Smith, stating, that Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales was much indisposed and could not see any one at present. This was directed to Sir Sidney Smith, at our house, although he did not live there. This was an acknowledgment of her guilt: she could not face us; it was satisfactory to us all, for it said—I am the author, let me off; but to make one's satisfaction upon this the more perfect, and to warn her of the danger she runs of discovery, when she did such

flagrant things, I wrote the under-written note and put it into the Post Office, directed to herself.

"MADAM,

"I received your former anonymous letter safe; also "your two last, with drawings.

"I am, Madam,

"Your obedient servant,

(Signed) "CHARLOTTE DOUGLAS."

It appears evident that Her Royal Highness received this safe, and felt how she had committed herself, for, instead of returning it in the old style, she sent for his Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, and requested him to send for Sir Sidney, and by the post Sir Sidney received an anonymous letter, saying, the writer of that wished for no *civil dissentions*, and that there seldom was a difference where, if the parties wished it, they could not arrange matters. Sir Sidney Smith brought this curious letter to shew Sir John, and we were all satisfied it was from Her Royal Highness, who, thinking Sir Sidney and Sir John might, by this time, be cutting each other's throats, sent very graciously to stop them; in short, she called them *civil dissentions.* His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, being employed to negotiate, sent for Sir Sidney Smith, and acquainted him, that he was desired by Her Royal Highness to say, that she would see Sir Sidney Smith in the course of a few days, provided, when he came to her, he avoided all disagreable discussions whatsoever. His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent then sought from Sir Sidney an explanation of the matter; Sir Sidney Smith, then gave the Duke of Kent a full detail of circumstances, and ended by saying, "We all could, and would, swear the drawings and words contained in those covers were written by the Princess of Wales; for, as if she were fully

to convict herself, she had sealed one of the covers with the identical seal she had used upon the cover, when she summoned Sir John to luncheon at Montague House." His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, finding what a scrape she had entangled herself in, exclaimed, "Abominable! foolish, to be sure; but Sir Sidney Smith, as this matter, if it makes a noise, may distress his Majesty, and be injurious to his health, I wish Sir John and Lady Douglas would (at least for the present) try to forget it; and if my making them a visit would be agreeable, and soothe their minds, I will go with all my heart, though I am not yet acquainted with them, and I will speak fully to the Princess of Wales, and point out to her the danger of doing such things; but, at all events, it would be very injurious to His Majesty's health, if it came to his ears just now." Sir Sidney Smith came from His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent to us, and delivered His Royal Highness's message. Sir John declined all negotiation; but told Sir Sidney Smith, that he was empowered to say to the Duke of Kent from him, that of whatsoever extent he might * his injuries, and however anxious he might be to seek justice, yet when he received such an intimation from one of the Royal Family, he would certainly pause before he took any of those measures he meant to take; and if that was the case, and His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent was desirous of his being quiet, lest His Majesty's health or peace might be disturbed by it, his duty, and his attachment to his Sovereign were so sincere, that he would bury (for the present) his private calamity, for the sake of His Majesty's repose and the public good; but he begged to be clearly understood, that he did not mean to bind himself hereafter, but reserve to himself a full right of exposing the Princess of Wales, when he judged it might be done with greatest effect, and when it was not likely to disturb the repose of this country.

* So in the authenticated copy.

Sir Sidney Smith told us that he had delivered Sir John's message, *verbatim*, to the Duke of Kent; and, a short time afterwards, his Royal Highness commanded Sir John and Sir Sidney to dine with him at Kensington Palace; but the Duke of Kent did not speak to Sir John upon the subject, and the matter rested there, and would have slept for a time, had not the Princess of Wales recommenced a fresh torrent of outrage against Sir John; and had he not discovered, that she was attempting to undermine his and Lady Douglas's character. Sir John, therefore, was compelled to communicate his situation to His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, in order that he might acquaint the Royal Family of the manner the Princess of Wales was proceeding in, and to claim His Majesty's and the Heir Apparent's protection. His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, with that goodness and consideration Sir John expected from him, has informed His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who sent Sir John word, that "He desired to have a full detail of all that passed during their acquaintance with Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, and how they became known to her, it appearing to the Heir Apparent, from the representation of His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, that His Majesty's dearest interests, and those of this country, were very deeply involved in the question; His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has commanded them to be very circumstantial in their detail respecting all they may know relative to the child the Princess of Wales affected to adopt. Sir John and Lady Douglas repeat, that, being so called upon, they feel it their duty to detail what they know, for the information of His Majesty and the Prince of Wales, and they have so done, as upon oath, after having very seriously considered the matter, and are ready to authenticate whatever they have said, if it should be required, for His Majesty's further information. I have drawn up this detail in the best manner I

could; and fear, from my never having before attempted a thing of the kind, it will be full of errors, and being much fatigued from writing of it, from the original, in eight and forty hours, of the facts contained therein, I believe they are correct; I am ready to assert, in the most solemn manner, that I know them all to be true.

(Signed) CHARLOTTE DOUGLAS.
JOHN DOUGLAS.

In the presence of
AUGUSTUS FREDERICK.

Greenwich Park, Dec. 3, 1805.

Copies of all the Papers alluded to in this Detail are in the Hands of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

(Signed) JOHN DOUGLAS.

In the presence of
AUGUSTUS FREDERICK.

A true Copy,
B. Bloomfield.

A true Copy,
J. Becket.

Whitehall, 29th August, 1806.

(No. 2.)

Narrative of the Duke of Kent.

TO introduce the following relation, it is necessary for me to premise that, on entering the Prince of Wales's bedroom, where our interview took place, my Brother, after dismissing his attendants, said to me, that some circumstances had come to his knowledge, with respect to a transaction with the Princess of Wales, in which he found that *I* had been a party concerned; that if he had not placed the most entire reliance on my attachment to *him*, and, he was pleased to add, on the well-known uprightness of my character and principles, he should certainly have felt himself in no small degree offended, at having learnt the facts alluded to from *others*, and not, in the first instance, from me, which he conceived himself every way entitled to expect, but more especially from that footing of confidence on which he had ever treated me through life; but, that being fully satisfied my explanation of the matter would prove, that he was not wrong in the opinion he had formed of the honourable motives that had actuated me in observing a silence with regard to *him* upon the subject; he then was anxiously waiting for me to proceed with a narrative, his wish to hear which, he was sure he had only to express, to ensure my immediate acquiescence with it. The Prince then gave me his hand, assuring me he did not feel the smallest degree of displeasure towards me, and proceeded to introduce the subject upon which he required information; when, feeling it a duty I owed him, to withhold from his knowledge no part of the circumstances connected with it that I could bring back to my recollection, I related the facts to him, as nearly as I can remember, in the following words:

" About a twelvemonth since, or thereabouts, (for I
" cannot speak positively to the exact date), I received a
" note from the Princess of Wales, by which she requested

" me to come over to Blackheath, in order to assist her
" in arranging a disagreeable matter between her, Sir
" Sidney Smith, Sir John and Lady Douglas, the particu-
" lars of which she would relate to me when I should call.
" I, in consequence, waited upon her, agreeable to her
" desire, a day or two after, when she commenced the
" conversation by telling me, that she supposed I knew
" she had, at one time, liv'd with Lady Douglas on a
" footing of intimacy, but that she had had reason after-
" wards to repent having made her acquaintance, and was
" therefore rejoiced when she left Blackheath for Ply-
" mouth, as she conceived that circumstance would break
" off all further communication between her and that
" Lady; that, however, contrary to her expectation, upon
" the return of Sir John and her from Plymouth to Lon-
" don, Lady Douglas had called and left her name twice
" or three times, notwithstanding she must have seen
" that admission was refused her; that having been con-
" firmed in the opinion she had before had occasion to
" form of her Ladyship, by an anonymous letter she had
" received, in which she was very strongly cautioned
" against renewing her acquaintance with her, both as
" being unworthy of her confidence, from the liberties she
" had allowed herself to take with the Princess's name,
" and the lightness of her character, she had felt herself
" obliged, as Lady Douglas would not take the hint that
" her visits were not wished for, to order Miss Vernon to
" write her a note, specifically telling her, that they
" would in future be dispensed with; that the conse-
" quence of this had been an application, through one of
" her ladies, in the joint names of Sir Sidney Smith, Sir
" John and Lady Douglas, for an audience, to require an
" explanation of this, which they considered as an af-
" front; and that being determined not to grant it, or to
" suffer any unpleasant discussion upon the subject, she
" entreated me to take whatever steps I might judge best

" to put an end to the matter, and rid her of all further
" trouble about it. I stated, in reply, that I had no
" knowledge of either Sir John or Lady Douglas, and
" therefore could not, in the *first* instance, address myself
" to *them;* but that I had *some* acquaintance with Sir
" Sidney Smith, and if the Princess was not averse to
" *that* channel, I would try what I could in *that* way
" effect.—This being assented to by the Princess, I took
" my leave, and, immediately on my return home, wrote
" a note to Sir Sidney, requesting him to call upon me as
" soon as he conveniently could, as I had some business
" to speak to him upon. Sir Sidney, in consequence,
" called on me (I think) the next day, when I related to
" him the conversation, as above stated, that I had had
" with the Princess. After hearing all I had to say, he
" observed, that the Princess, in stating to me, that *her*
" prohibition to Lady Douglas to repeat her visits at
" Blackheath, had led to the application for an audience
" of Her Royal Highness, had kept from me the *real*
" cause why he, as well as Sir John and Lady Douglas
" had made it, as it originated in a most scandalous ano-
" nymous letter, of a nature calculated to set on Sir John
" and him to cut each other's throats, which, from the
" hand-writing and stile, they were both fully convinced
" was the production of the Princess herself. I naturally
" expressed my sentiments upon such conduct, on the
" part of the Princess, in terms of the strongest animad-
" version; but, nevertheless, anxious to avoid the shame-
" ful eclat which the publication of such a fact to the
" world must produce; the effect, which its coming to
" the King's knowledge would probably have on his
" health, from the delicate state of his nerves, and all the
" additional misunderstandings between His Majesty and
" the Prince, which, I foresaw, would inevitably follow,
" were this fact, which would give the Prince so powerful
" a handle to express his feelings upon the countenance

" shewn by the King to the Princess, at a time when I
" knew him to be severely wounded by His Majesty's
" visits to Blackheath, on the one hand, and the reports
" he had received of the Princess's conduct on the other,
" to be brought to light; I felt it my bounden duty, as an
" honest man, to urge all these arguments with Sir Sidney
" Smith, in the most forcible manner I was master of;
" adding also, as a further object, worthy of the most se-
" rious consideration, the danger of any appearance of
" ill-blood in the Family at such an eventful crisis, and
" to press upon his mind the necessity of his using his
" best endeavours with Sir John Douglas, notwithstand-
" ing all the provocation that had been given them, to
" induce him to let the matter drop, and pursue it no
" further. Sir Sidney observed to me, that Sir John
" Douglas was a man, whom, when once he had taken a
" line, from a principle of honour, it was very difficult
" to persuade to depart from it; however, as he thought,
" that if *any* man could prevail upon him, *he* might flat-
" ter himself with being the most likely to persuade him,
" from the weight he had with him; he would immedi-
" ately try how far he could gain upon him, by making
" use of those arguments I had brought forward to induce
" him to drop the matter altogether. About four or five
" days after this, Sir Sidney called upon me again, and
" informed me, that upon making use with Sir John of
" those reasons, which I had authorized his stating to be
" those, by which I was actuated in making the request,
" that he would not press the business further, he had not
" been able to resist their force; but that the whole ex-
" tent of promise he had been able to obtain of him,
" amounted to no more, than that *he* would, *under exist-*
" *ing circumstances* remain *quiet*, if left unmolested; for
" that he would *not* pledge himself not to bring the sub-
" ject forward *hereafter*, when the same motive might no
" longer operate to keep him silent. This result I com-

"municated, to the best of my recollection, the following day to the Princess, who seemed satisfied with it; and from that day to the present one, (Nov. 10, 1805), I never have heard the subject named again in any shape, until called upon by the Prince to make known to *him* the circumstances of this transaction, as far as I could bring them to my recollection."

And now, having fulfilled what the Prince wished me to do, to the best of my abilities, in case hereafter any one, by whom a narrative of all the circumstances, as related by Sir John and Lady Douglas, of whom I was informed by my Brother, *subsequent* to our conversation, should imagine, that I knew more of them than I have herein stated, I hereby spontaneously declare, that what I have written, is the whole extent of what I was apprized of; and had the Princess thought proper to inform me of what, in the narrative of the information given by Sir John and Lady Douglas, is alluded to, I should have felt myself obliged to decline *all* interference in the business; and to have, at the same time, stated to her, that it would be impossible for me to keep a matter of such importance from the knowledge of the Prince.

(Signed) EDWARD.

December 27, 1805.

A true Copy,
B. Bloomfield.

A true Copy,
J. Becket.

Whitehall, 29th August, 1806.

(No. 3.)

For the Purpose of confirming the Statement, made by Lady Douglas, of the Circumstances mentioned in her Narrative, the following Examinations have been taken, and which have been signed by the several Persons who have been examined.

SARAH LAMPERT.

N. B. *This witness was not examined by the Commissioners; at least, no Copy of any Examination of her's was transmitted with the other Papers; and no observation is made in the Report of the Commissioners, or in the answer of her Royal Highness upon her Examinations. It has, therefore, been thought that there was no necessity for publishing them.*

There are two of them; one dated at Cheltenham, 8th January, 1806; *the other with no date of place, but dated 29th March,* 1806.

MR. WILLIAM LAMPERT.

N. B. *The same observations apply to Mr. William Lampert's Examination, as to those of his Wife, with this additional circumstance, that the whole of his Examination is mere hearsay.*

11th January, 1806.

WILLIAM COLE.

Has been with the Prince for 21 years in t month; he went with the Princess on her marriage, and remained till April, 1802.

In 1801, he says, he had reason to be dissatisfied with the Princess's conduct. During the latter part of that year he has seen Mr. Canning several times alone with the Princess, in a room adjoining to the drawing-room, for an hour or two, of which the company took notice.

In January, 1802, Sir Sidney frequently came to dine with the Princess, and their intimacy became familiar; he has frequently dined and supped at the house, and when the Ladies have retired, about eleven o'clock, he has known Sir Sidney remain alone with the Princess an hour or two afterwards; his suspicions increased very much; and one night, about twelve o'clock, he saw a person wrapped up in a great coat, go across the park, into the gate to the green house, and he verily believes it was Sir Sidney.

In the month of March, 1802, the Princess ordered some sandwiches, which Cole took into the drawing-room, where he found Sir Sidney talking to the Princess; he sat down the sandwiches, and retired. In a short time he went again into the room, where he found the Gentleman and Lady sitting close together, in so familiar a posture as to alarm him very much, which he expressed by a start back, and a look at the Gentleman. He dates his dismissal from this circumstance; for, about a fortnight afterwards, he was sent for by the Duke of Kent, who told him he had seen the Princess at court the day before: that she had expressed the greatest regard for him, and that she intended to do something for him, by employing him, as a confidential person, to do her little matters in town; and

his attendance at Montague House would not be required. He received this intimation with much concern; but said, her Royal Highness's pleasure must govern him.

He says, that the cordiality between the Princess and Lady D. was very soon brought about; and, he supposes, on Sir Sidney's account; that the Princess frequently went across the Heath to Lady D. where she staid till late in the evening, and that, sometimes, Lady D. and Sir Sidney have come with the Princess to Montague House late in the evening, when they have supped.

Sometime after he had left Montague House, he went down, when he spoke to Fanny Lloyd, and asked her how things went on amongst them; she said, she wished she had remained amongst them; there was strange goings on; that Sir Sidney was frequently there; and that one day, when Mary Wilson supposed the Princess to be gone into the library, she went into the bed-room, where she found a man at breakfast with the Princess; that there was a great to do about it; and that Mary Wilson was sworn to secrecy, and threatened to be turned away if she divulged what she had seen.

He does not know much of what passed at Margate in 1803.

In 1804, the Princess was at Southend, where Fanny Lloyd also was; when Cole saw her after her return, he asked how they had gone on; she said, "Delightful doings, always on ship-board, or the Captain at our house."

She told him, that one evening, when all were supposed to be in bed, Mrs. Lisle met a man in the passage; but no alarm was made—this was Captain Manby; he was constantly in the house. Mr. Cole says, that Mrs. Sander knows every thing; that she has appeared in great distress on many occasions, and

has said to him, the Princess is an altered woman; he believes Sander to be a very respectable woman.

He says, that he believes Roberts to be an honest man; that Roberts has said to him —*As Roberts himself was examined by the Commissioners, and his deposition is given in Appendix A. No. 8, what Cole says he heard him say is omitted here.)*

That Arthur, the gardener, is a decent man, but does not know if he is privy to any thing.

That Bidgood is a deaf quiet man, but thinks he has not been confidentially trusted.

That Mrs. Gosden was nurse to the child, and was always up-stairs with it; she is a respectable woman; but after some time, took upon herself much consequence, and refused to dine in the servant's hall.

In 1801, Lawrence, the painter, was at Montague House, for four or five days at a time, painting the Princess's picture; that he was frequently alone, late in the night, with the Princess, and much suspicion was entertained of him.

WM. COLE.

14*th January*, 1806.

WILLIAM COLE.

Says, that the Princess was at Mr Hood's, at Satherington, near Portsmouth, for near a month in the last summer, where she took her footman and servants.

That the house in which Mr. Hood lived was given up to the Princess, and he, and his family, went to reside in a small house adjoining.

That the Princess and Mr. Hood very frequently went out in the forenoon, and remained out for four or five hours at a time.

That they rode in a gig, attended by a boy, (a coun-

try lad) servant to Mr. Hood, and took with them cold meat; that they used to get out of the gig, and walk into the wood, leaving the boy to attend the horse and gig till their return. This happened very frequently; that the Duke of Kent called one day, and seeing the Princess's attendants at the window, came into the house, and after waiting some time, went away without seeing the Princess, who was out with Mr. Hood.

This information Mr. Cole had from Fanny Lloyd.

When Mr. Cole found the drawing-room, which led to the staircase to the Princess's apartments, locked, he does not know whether any person was with her, but it appeared odd to him, as he had formed some suspicions.

Mr. Cole says, that he saw the Princess at Blackheath about four times in the year 1802, after he left her in April, and five or six times in London; that he had heard a story of the Princess's being with child, but cannot say that he formed an opinion that she was so; that she grew lusty, and appeared large behind; and that at the latter end of the year he made the observation, that the Princess was grown thinner.

That he cannot form an opinion about the child; that he has seen an old man and woman (about 50 years of age) at Montague House on a Sunday, and has inquired who they were, when he was answered by the servants in the hall, "That is little Billy's mother," (meaning the child the Princess had taken, and which was found by Stikeman.)

WM. COLE.

Temple, 30th January, 1806.

WILLIAM COLE

Says, that on the 17th of January instant, he walked from Blackheath to London with Mr. Stikeman, and, in the conversation on the road, Cole mentioned the circumstance of the little child, saying, that he was grown a fine interesting boy; to which Stikeman replied, What, do you mean Billy Austin? Cole said Yes. Pray do the old man and woman come to see the child as usual? Stikeman said, " Old man and woman! they are not old; we have not seen them much lately; they live at Deptford;" but he appeared to avoid any conversation on the subject. Cole says, that the account of the correspondence between the Princess and Captain Manby was communicated to tohim by Fanny Lloyd, but she never mentioned any such correspondence having taken place through Sicard, since Captain Manby went abroad.

Cole says, that he has not been in the company, or presence, of the Prince alone, or had any conversation with him on this, or any other subject, since the Princess went to live at Charlton, which is near nine years ago.

WM. COLE.

23d February, 1806.

WILLIAM COLE

Says, that a Gentleman and Lady were sitting close together on the sofa; but there was nothing particular in their dress, position of legs or arms, that was extraordinary; he thought it improper that a single Gentleman should be sitting quite close to a married Lady

on the sofa; and from that situation, and former observations, he thought the thing improper.

The person who was alone with the Lady at late hours of the night (twelve and one o'clock), and whom he left sitting up after he went to bed, was Mr. Lawrence the painter, which happened two different nights at least.

As to the observation made about Sir Sidney having a key of every door about the gardens, it was a gardener, who was complaining of the door of the green-house being left open, and the plants damaged, and who made the same to Mr. Lampert, the servant of Sir John Douglas, and which he mentioned at Cheltenham to Sir John and Mr. Lowten.

Lampert said he should know the gardener again.

Temple, 4th April, 1806.

ROBERT BIDGOOD.

Have lived with the Prince 23 years on the 18th of September next, and have been with the Princess since 21st March, 1798. In 1802 we were at Blackheath, and did not go to any other place: in 1801 Sir Sidney Smith left his card at Montague House, and he was afterwards invited to dinner; and, in the Spring of 1802, Lady Douglas came to reside at the Tower, where she stayed about three weeks. During this time Sir Sidney was frequently at the House, both morning and evening, and remained till three or four o'clock in the morning. He has seen Sir Sidney in the blue parlour early (by ten o'clock) in the morning: and, on inquiring from the footmen how he came there without his knowledge, they said, they had not let him in, and knew nothing of his being there. He does not know of Sir Sidney being alone till three or four o'clock in the morning, as there were other Ladies in the house.

During the year 1802 the Princess used to ride out in her phaeton, attended by Mrs. Fitzgerald, and took out cold meat, and went towards Dartford, where she spent the day, and returned about six or seven in the evening,---Williams, the coachman, always attended the Princess.

Lady Douglas, during the year 1802, was constantly at Montague House, and was admitted at all times. The Princess was used frequently to go to Lady Douglas's house, where Sir Sidney resided; at the end of that year there was a misunderstanding between Lady Douglas and the Princess; and one day he saw Lady Douglas leave the house in tears, and afterwards she has not visited the Princess. Mr. Bidgood's wife has lately told him, that Fanny Lloyd told her, that Mary Wilson had told Lloyd, that one day, when she went into the Princess's room, she found the Princess and Sir Sidney in the fact; that she (Wilson) immediately left the room, and fainted at the door.

In the Winter of 1802, and the Spring of 1803, Captain Manby became a visitor at Montague House; his frigate was fitting out at Deptford, and Bidgood has reason to believe, that the Princess fitted up his cabin, for he has seen the cotton furniture brought to the Princess to chuse the pattern, which was sent to Blake, her upholsterer, in London-street, Greenwich. When Captain Manby was about to sail, he was walking in the anti-room, to let Captain Manby out: and, as he stayed some time, Bidgood looked into the room, and from a mirror on the opposite side of the room to where Captain Manby and the Princess stood, he saw Captain Manby kissing the Princess's lips; and soon afterwards he went away. He saw the Princess, with her handkerchief to her face, and go into the drawing-room, apparently in tears.

In 1803, was not with the Princess at Margate.

In 1804, was with the Princess at Southend. We

went there the 2d of May; Sicard was constantly on the look-out for the Africaine, Captain Manby's ship; and about a month afterwards, Sicard descried the ship, before she came to the Nore. The instant the ship cast anchor, the Captain came on shore in his boat to the Princess. The Princess had two houses, Nos. 8 and 9. She lived at No. 9; and on Sicard seeing Captain Manby come on shore, he ran down the shrubbery to meet, and shewed him into the house, No. 9; Captain Manby was constantly at No. 9; and used to go in the evening on board his ship, for some weeks; but afterwards he did not return on board the ship in the evening, and Bidgood had seen him in the morning, by ten o'clock, in the house, No. 9; and, from the circumstance of towels, water, and glasses, being placed in the passage, he had reason to believe that Manby had slept there all night.

In 1805, Bidgood was not with the Princess in Hampshire.

After the Princess returned from Hampshire, Captain Hood used to visit the Princess at Blackheath alone, without his wife. Captain Hood used to come about twelve o'clock, and was shewn into the blue room, where luncheon was ordered; and the Princess and the Captain were alone together, without a lady or other attendant. He used to stay dinner, and sometimes in boots; about an hour afterwards coffee was ordered; after which the Princess retired, and Captain Hood had also left the room, aud had not been let out of the house by any of the servants. Bidgood has not seen Captain Hood since about Christmas last.

Bidgood has strong suspicions that Mrs. Sander used to deliver letters to Sicard, which he conceived to be from the Princess to Captain Manby, as Sicard

used to put the letters into his pocket, and not into the common bag for letters.

Mrs. Sander must be fully informed of all the circumstances above alluded to. Mary Wilson and Miss Mielfield must also know all the circumstances.

Bidgood has seen the mother (as she is called) of the little boy frequently at Montague House; the child was about three weeks old when he first saw it. The mother was at Montague House on Monday last. The husband worked at Deptford Yard; but was discharged, and Stikeman has since employed him at his house in town. The mother appears to be better dressed than usual.

(Signed) R. BIDGOOD.

SARAH BIDGOOD.

About six months ago, in a conversation with Fanny Lloyd, respecting the general conduct of the Princess, she said, that whilst Sir Sidney visited the Princess, that Mary Wilson had gone into the bed-room to make up the fire, and found the Princess and Sir Sidney in such an indecent situation, that she immediately left the room, and was so shocked that she fainted away at the door.

(This witness was not examined before the Commissioners; at least, no Copy of such Examination, if there was any, was transmitted with the other Papers. The first paragraph in her examination is, however, stated above, as it is observed upon in the Princess's Answer; but the remainder, not being adverted to, either by the Commissioner's Report, or by the Answer, and being all hearsay, is omitted.

Temple, 12th May, 1806.

FRANCES LLOYD,

FROM RIPLEY IN SURREY.

To the best of my knowledge, Mary Wilson said that she had seen the Princess and Sir Sidney in the blue room; but she is so close a woman, that she never opens her mouth on any occasion; never heard Mary Wilson say she was so alarmed as to be in a fit.

Heard the gardener at Ramsgate say one day, at dinner, that he had seen Mr. Sicard and Captain Manby go across the lawn towards a subterraneous passage leading to the sea.

When her Royal Highness was going to the launch, Sir Andrew Hammond and his son came the day before, and dined with her, and in the next morning, about four o'clock, after the doors of the house were open, she saw Captain Manby sitting in the drawing-room of the adjoining house to her Royal Highness, which room belonged to her.

One morning, about six o'clock, she was called to get breakfast for her Royal Highness, when she saw Captain Manby, and her walking in the garden, at Ramsgate.

Heard from Mrs. Lisle's maid, that the Princess, when at Lady Sheffield's, went out of her bed-room, and could not find her way back; but nothing more.

About four years ago, as I think, Mr. Mills attended me for a cold, and, in conversation he asked me if the Prince visited at our house? I said, not to my knowledge. He said the Princess certainly was with child.

FRANCES LLOYD.

A true Copy,
(Signed) *J. Becket.*

Whitehall, 29th August, 1806.

FINIS.

LIST OF THE DOCUMENTS

STATED IN THE

APPENDIXES.

APPENDIX (A).

No.		1806,	Page
1.	The King's Warrant, dated	29 May.	1
2.	Deposition of Lady Douglas,	1 June.	2
3.	- - - - - - - - Sir John Douglas,	1	2
4.	- - - - - - - - Robert Bidgood,	6	9
5.	- - - - - - - - William Cole,	10	11
6.	- - - - - - - - Frances Lloyd,	7	13
7.	- - - - - - - - Mary Wilson,	7	15
8.	- - - - - - - - Samuel Roberts,	7	16
9.	- - - - - - - - Thomas Stikeman,	7	17
10.	- - - - - - - - John Sicard,	7	20
11.	- - - - - - - - Charlotte Sander,	7	21
12.	- - - - - - - - Sophia Austin,	7	24
13.	Letter from Lord Spencer to Lord Gwydir,	20	25
14.	- - - - - - Lord Gwydir to Lord Spencer,	21	26
15.	- - - - - - Lady Willoughby to Lord Spencer,	21	27
16.	Extract from Register of Brownlow-street Hospital,	23	27
17.	Deposition of Eliz. Gosden,	23	28

No.		1806.	Page
18.	Deposition of Betty Townley,	23 June.	29
19.	- - - - - - - Thomas Edmeades,	25	30
20.	- - - - - - - Samuel G. Mills,	25	32
21.	- - - - - - - Harriet Fitzgerald,	27	33
22.	Letter from Lord Spencer to Lord Gwydir, - -	1 July.	36
23.	- - - - - - - Lord Gwydir to Lord Spencer, - -	3	37
24	Queries to Lady Willoughby, and Answers, - -	3	ib.
25.	Further Deposition of Robert Bidgood, - -	3	39
26.	Deposition of Sir Francis Millman,	3	41
27.	- - - - - - - of Mrs. Lisle,	3	42
28.	Letter from Sir Francis Millman to the Lord Chancellor,	4	46
29.	Deposition of Lord Cholmondeley,	16	47

APPENDIX (B).

1. Lady Douglas's Statement, 49
2. Narrative of His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, 92
3 Examination for the purpose of Confirming Lady Douglas's Statement, 97

ERRATA.

Page 198, for December 8th, 1807, read December 8th, 1806.

At the foot of each of the Documents, stated in the Appendix, from Nos. 1 to 19, both inclusive, read

"A true Copy,

"*J. Bocket.*"

R. EDWARDS, PRINTER, CRANE-COURT, FLEET-STREET.

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The Sixth Edition.

A VINDICATION

OF THE

CONDUCT OF

LADY DOUGLAS,

DURING HER INTERCOURSE WITH THE

PRINCESS OF WALES:

TOGETHER WITH REMARKS ON

The Book,

AND ON THE CONSEQUENCES OF ITS PUBLICATION.

ALSO,

A NARRATIVE OF

AND COMMENTARIES UPON

SOME EXTRAORDINARY TRANSACTIONS;

INCLUDING ANECDOTES OF NUMEROUS

HIGH AND DISTINGUISHED PERSONAGES.

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Innocence finds not near so much protection as guilt.

LA ROCHEFOUCAULT.

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A

VINDICATION

OF THE CONDUCT OF

LADY DOUGLAS,

&c. &c.

ANOTHER NEW EDITION of this Tract having been *again* called for by the public, much sooner than the author could have expected, there has been little time for making alterations in its contents. The sheets, however, in their progress through the press have been submitted to a hasty revision; and the

present edition will consequently be found to contain many additional observations.

THE unhappy and lamentable differences between a certain illustrious couple, having so long been made a topic of universal discussion, it may, at first view, appear extraordinary that any more remarks should be published upon the subject. A little reflection, however, may lead to the belief, that *illustrations* of the topic are by no means exhausted; and that towards SOME of the parties concerned *justice* has hitherto been but partially administered. Time, however, as it seldom fails to elucidate the most mysterious transactions, may yet afford means to decide whether the late *overstrained sensibilities* of the British people were not of that generous though thoughtless nature which might have been qualified by the exercise of discretion.*

* This tract was written last summer. It was, however, thought proper to withhold its publication till the present period; as at this time its contents were supposed likely to

If the sentiments delivered a few months ago at the numerous meetings, called for the

be regarded with more dispassionate attention than they would then have received.—But it may be added, that *even now* the time is not arrived for it to receive proper consideration. When the *whole nation* has been roused, and is exultingly alive, to matters of *national importance*, it cannot be expected that the general sentiment can express itself upon topics of a *family* nature, however high may be the rank of the characters from whom the public attention would not otherwise be abstracted. But what is the importance of *individual misunderstandings;* or what are the squabbles of all the *Princes* and *Princesses* on the face of the earth, compared with the great and glorious events in which are involved the fate and happiness of VAST EMPIRES? Absolutely nothing; no more than a grain of sand in comparison with the ocean! When every eye is rivetted on *the new moral and political revolution of the Continent*—when every British heart vibrates with delight at the regeneration of *European liberty*, it would be the height of absurdity to imagine that the public enthusiasm could be diverted from its immediate object, to canvass the propriety of a few paragraphs, offered in defence of an individual of whom the world would perhaps never have heard a word, but for the *unfortunate notoriety* of the "*Delicate Investigation!*" Nevertheless, the

purpose of addressing the Princess of Wales, should be mistaken by the rest of Europe for the general opinion of Englishmen, what inferences must be drawn by the rest of Europe, as to the wickedness of British Statesmen, and in what a deplorable light would appear the conduct of the Personage who is placed at the head of this empire! In case the different na-

demand which has existed *(and which hourly increases)* for this pamphlet is beyond all precedent. The *first Edition*, of which a considerable number was printed, was all sold, through the curiosity excited by an advertisement *only once inserted in two Morning Papers:* other impressions were then prepared, without loss of time, in making a single alteration, and it is a fact, no less astonishing than true, *that while our advertisements have been lying at the different Newspaper-offices, unable to gain insertion, on account of the pressure of news, this tract has circulated, and continues to run like a current all over the empire*; so that it is probable, it will shortly find its way into every spot or family where THE BOOK ITSELF has made its appearance! This is as it should be. People should always hear whatever can be said on *both sides of a question, and then judge for themselves:* without this privilege, our vaunted liberty of the press is a mere *non-entity*.

tions should have formed a prejudiced judgment on the late transactions, how necessary it is that they should be undeceived! For, unfortunately, the desperate leaders of the lowest political faction in this country never had so specious an opportunity for the degradation of the throne; nor was there ever a period when their operations so fairly promised that result which has been the incessant object of their wishes.

That the Princess of Wales should have had the cruel misfortune to fall into the snares of persons whose motives, one might think, could never have been for a moment mistaken by her, is a circumstance that must always be lamented. It is an event truly distressing to that respected portion of British subjects who are anxious to transmit the blessings of the Constitution unimpared to their posterity. It is an axiom not to be disputed, that anarchy can never take place in a state till insolence towards the reigning powers has settled into permanent disrespect; and what could be

Wales, instead of allowing her conscience and confidence to be moulded to the purposes of more likely to excite a general and indignant feeling of this nature against the PRINCE REGENT, than such infamous assertions as were uttered at the public assemblies? Such libels (for to this appellation are most of the Addresses entitled) must be supposed to receive the sanction of all who stand recorded as their framers and patrons; but the stigma must not be suffered to disgrace those who would preserve their reputation for loyalty and discernment.

The Addressers have been profuse in their declamations about *a Conspiracy;* but themselves have turned out to be the only true *Conspirators!* Their *manœuvres* of the last winter too fatally succeeded in fanning the dormant sparks of chagrin into a blaze of vindictiveness: but Reason, driven for the moment from her seat, defeated their designs by the resumption of her empire.

If that illustrious personage, the Princess of

those *pretended but treacherous friends* who have dragged her forth into an unpropitious notoriety, had displayed a degree of prudence and firmness consistent with her dignified situation, she would have insisted on being left in tranquil retirement. It is astonishing that she had no *discreet adviser*, who might have pointed out the gross impropriety of letting such a document as her Letter relative to the Princess Charlotte be thrown before the public: for, had any reflection been exercised, it might have been foreseen that this proceeding was likely to produce very serious consequences, without the remotest probability of benefit to the complainant; while, if it had not taken place, the world would not have been supplied with a topic for *scandalising small-talk and blush-exciting sarcasm*, through the publication of a most obnoxious mass of indelicate details!

As the matter now presents itself, a *certain turn* appears to have taken place in the public mind. Now that the printed proceedings of

1806 are on every person's table, unprejudiced and reflecting men are at a loss to discover the grounds on which the illustrious female can be congratulated on her escape from *destruction!* What they had thought before they possessed the means of forming a correct opinion, appears, therefore, an "*error of judgment!*" They cannot now discover any shadow of such a wicked design; they see no *frustration of a conspiracy* against the Princess of Wales, because they are not supplied with reasons for believing that such baseness ever existed in any mind: but they do exult in the explosion of a *plot to degrade royalty altogether;* and they commiserate the lady who could descend to act the *heroine* in such a despicable drama of political mountebanks. *These* never had any partiality for the Princess of Wales, nor any feeling for the peculiarity of her situation: *they* would never, at another time, have moved a finger *to vindicate her honour or preserve her life!* But the opportunity of reviling the Regent, and aiming a deadly blow at his reputa-

tion, through the *pretended injuries* inflicted upon his wife, was too inspiring to be neglected. They entered, however, upon their schemes with too much audacity to acquire success. They had all the malignity and arrogance of the Titans, without any of their courage or skill. They attacked the throne on its invulnerable side, and their *forlorn hope* has become a monument of their impudence and folly!

If, as a most able writer has asserted, *private vices* are *public benefits*, we have, in the late transactions, a proof, that *public wickedness* is likewise attended with *general advantage*. Had a sort of national credibility been given to the charges and insinuations thrown out against the Head of the Empire and certain members of his august family, by the democratical orators, who is there that does not perceive the disesteem into which they would have irrevocably fallen! Perhaps the evident *difference of opinion* which now prevails, may be attributed more to the universal perusal of The

Book than to any contingent circumstance; while any attempt, at the beginning of the year 1813, to stem the torrent of generous sympathy, rather than letting it be *self-exhausted*, would have been regarded as the result of apprehension. Many a dispassionate person, after sedately perusing that extraordinary publication, has laid it down with a significant shake of the head, and a confirmed opinion, that no man ought to become a partisan till he has heard all that can be said on *both sides* of a controversy.

From these preliminary observations, it may be imagined that the writer is about to pursue the very extreme which has been condemned, and to become a champion of *that Personage* against whom the late popular disrespect and clamour have been so conspicuously directed. Nothing however is farther from the author's intention. A calm observer can perceive the errors which all the parties have run into; but it requires only a moderate portion of understanding to discover on which side they

are ordinary, and *least offensive to the moral organization of society.*

Peace and praise be to her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, to the full extent that she merits tranquillity and popularity. She has long been placed in a predicament which has excited universal sympathy, and she has enjoyed all the consolation that can be derived from *popular testimonies of condolence!* But, if she possess a stomach capable of digesting the immeasurable and fulsome adulation which has lately been poured upon her from every quarter, the truth of Lord CHESTERFIELD's assertion, that a woman " will greedily swallow the highest and gratefully accept of the lowest; while she may be safely flattered, from her understanding down to the exquisite taste of her fan," will appear as incontestible as the passages of scripture.

We have, however, said, and it shall be here repeated, that those eulogies were only the *media*, or vehicles, to direct as many insults against the Prince: but the public do not en-

tertain so poor an opinion of that great Personage, as to believe that such outrages for a moment annoyed him. And still more disrespectful would be their ideas of the understanding of the Princess of Wales, if they could suppose that she derived the smallest gratification from hearing the inflammatory insinuations of these *King-haters* against the leading members of her family. The supposition is, indeed, forbidden by decency and morality: but it would have redounded to the honour of the Princess of Wales, and have afforded a trait of her *magnanimity*, for the admiration of posterity, if, in her answers to the seditious Addressers, she had expressed her indignation at their conduct, in approaching her with *protestations of sympathy*, only the more directly to vent their calumnies against the father of BRITAIN'S HEIRESS! Without disparagement to the mental intelligence of the Princess of Wales, we may lament the imbecility of those female, or the knavery of those male, *confidential associates*, who must have *counselled* the line

that was adopted. Even a side-wind hint of *disapprobation* at the language of the Addressers and Jacobin-orators would have afforded a salutary check to subsequent and similar impertinence; and how delicately appropriate would have been an intimation, that *family misunderstandings* were never yet reconciled by the abrupt and officious obtrusions of a *mob;* who, by volunteering their censures against either disputant, have ultimately acquired the contempt of both. Yet, what was the uniform tenor of the Answers? Certainly any thing rather than an indication that the Addresses were at all offensive to the royal ear.

Supposing, as we are bound to do, that there is at least a *moderate* portion of truth in what has been said and sung about her Royal Highness's intellectual accomplishments, we are convinced that many instances must have presented themselves to her mind, as recorded in history both sacred and profane, where *wives*, however great may have been the *injuries and persecutions* which they have sustained, have nobly sacri-

ficed all private feelings of animosity, to repel assaults on the reputation of their husbands; while it cannot be denied that such examples are at all times laudable and worthy of imitation. The authority of the Sacred Scriptures commands this behaviour to be perpetual. Wives, to be sure, according to St. PETER, are the *weaker vessel*;* but St. PAUL nevertheless insists that the *head* of the woman is the man, and that she was created for *him*, not he for her.† Wives, therefore, should always consider any insinuations against their lords to be a direct insult towards themselves. An extraordinary and unfortunate estrangement from connubial affection must not be urged to justify a different line of conduct.

We could say much more on the topic of the late Addresses, if farther disquisition had any relation to the principal subject of this preface; but it is unnecessary. The *rage* has had its day; the attempt to insult the Regent on his throne has been *defeated* by the good sense of

* 1 Pet. 3, 7. † 1 Cor. 9.

the public, and *thinking people* have frequently observed, that "*all has been done which is necessary for the protection of innocence and the ends of justice.*" This fine and liberal language, however, is not strictly correct. *All* has *not* been done; for we would ask such persons, what sort of justice has been done, or what human compensation can be made, to those individuals whose repuation has been invaded, whose conduct has been prejudged, whose fortunes have been ruined, and whose peace of mind has been destroyed, by the furious and unreasonable spirit which has possessed the whole nation? These persons are indisputably SIR JOHN and LADY DOUGLAS! Never has this country witnessed such a *league* on the part of its population, to *run down* a family, not only without positive proof of their culpability, but in defiance of every principle of justice, reason, and humanity!

It has been very truly observed, that when the passions of a people have been roused against any particular object, their brutality

displays itself in the exact inverse proportion of their civilization. This was exemplified in the case of the DUKE OF YORK, and also, in the conduct of the London populace, on their late return from Kensington-palace; but it has been much farther illustrated by the cruel treatment of SIR JOHN and LADY DOUGLAS. For the last seven years, these individuals have been subjected to every kind of abuse and indignity which human prejudice could imagine: they have been held up to public odium and execration by such artifices as the British people at any former period would have disdained to practise; and if their *persons* have hitherto escaped from gross assault, this appears to be rather owing to their own *fortitude and consistency*, than to any considerations of decency on the part of the public. And yet, let it not be supposed, that these individuals are *immaculate*. They have been guilty of some signal and censurable indiscretions, which shall be fully pointed out in the course of this publication; but they shall not be hunted out

of society, like rabid animals, without a bar being thrown, by *one* hand at least, in the way of their infuriate pursuers!

It is a fact equally surprising as lamentable, that persons of all descriptions, sects, and principles, have united to censure this couple, and expose them to universal obloquy; the only contest appearing to be, which party should be most profuse in the epithets of defamation and abhorrence. The accusations of the public writers against Lady Douglas were, that "she *insinuated herself* into the good graces of the Princess; that she was discharged from the presence of the latter for *improper behaviour*, which *so enraged her*, that, in conjunction with her husband, *she plotted the* DESTRUCTION *of the Princess;* an object which she *might suppose* would be agreeable to a high personage! With this view, she contrived, by *insinuations* and *inuendoes*, to cast that degree of *suspicion* upon the character of the Princess which produced the miscalled

Delicate Investigation,"* &c. This piece of critical condemnation is a fair specimen of the late *general* tenor of editorial sensibility throughout the country.

Other writers, equally candid and liberal, called the Douglases "*infamous individuals*, leagued against the life of a Princess, and supporting their charges by evident perjury."† And, not to multiply instances, we may say at once, that the English language was ransacked for similar terms, to give a zest to the *political reflections* of *almost* every newspaper in the kingdom; while the *street-orators*, those worthy advocates of justice and tranquillity, described the Deposition of Lady Douglas as "*the ravings of a disordered imagination, transferring its own impure suggestions to the bosom of innocence!!!*" ‡

Thus the public were instructed to *reconcile*

* Nottingham Review, March, 1813.

† Westmoreland Advertiser, April 3, 1813.

‡ Alderman's Wood's reported Speech, at the Westminster Meeting.

absurdities, by considering Lady Douglas in the compound character of *mad-woman*, *knave*, and *fool!* And it was really amusing to hear the arguments advanced in private companies, to prove her right to *all* these creditable qualifications!

Against such a torrent of senseless calumny and prejudice, what human being could stand? Sir John and Lady Douglas had been found guilty, according to the system at Algiers, without being heard in their defence. They were universally asserted to have condemned *themselves*, though no one could tell *when* or *how* this had happened. It was sufficient that the people of England had taken it into their heads that they were *malicious*, *plodding*, *crafty*, *mad*, *foolish*, *envious*, *immoral*, *ungrateful*, *base*, *wicked*, *slanderous*, *false*, *perjured*, *infamous*, and consequently *detestable!!!* Such a string of damnatory epithets would have been powerful enough to suffocate a couple of *Saints*, if such could be found in our profane and diabolical æra! But the time of retribution may arrive,

and perhaps sooner than many persons apprehend.

As to the *modest* and *liberal* remarks of many public writers, they are deserving of just as much consideration as is due to the vehicles in which they have appeared. The editors are sensible people: their property is of considerable value; but it would be so no longer than their owners would continue to coincide with the *popular opinion* upon such a topic as this. What degree of *truth* there is in the charges they have disseminated—whether Lady Douglas "*insinuated herself* into the Princess's favour," "was dismissed for *improper behaviour*," &c. &c. may be believed or disbelieved, after the annexed NARRATIVE has been attentively perused. We shall merely observe, *en-passant*, that, though such an abundance of words and paper has been sent forth in defence of the Princess of Wales, no writer has yet ventured to rebut a single assertion of Lady Douglas, which appeared in her *Deposition on Oath*. But the fact is, that it is more *convenient* to *believe* than to

reflect upon any subject whatever; and Scandal herself would at any time be *famished*, if the food on which she subsists were to be purified by the rays of reason. The Douglases have been, throughout this disgusting affair, most grossly calumniated; and we are convinced, that if *an unprejudiced jury* could be formed, they might obtain verdicts for defamation against every newspaper-editor in the kingdom who has thus dared to assassinate their reputation!

It is very remarkable, and the fact ought to make a general impression, that *all the scribblers and orators of the democratic stamp, were the most vulgar and virulent enemies of the Princess of Wales, from the time of her first immersion into obscurity, till, in* 1813, *they had* AN UNPARALLELLED OPPORTUNITY *to turn their attacks on a higher object of hostility;* and to ap-*

* In that loyal and truly respectable Paper, the *Morning Post*, of September 11, 1806, and other periods of that year, some liberal writing appeared in defence of a branch of the Royal Family, against the unmanly assaults of certain

pear before this illustrious Lady in the ill-fitting disguise of honesty and friendship! On assuming this new character, it was necessary for these high priests of sedition to devote some victim or other to their sacrificial orgies. It was not enough, that they who had for years been employed in propagating all manner of indecent inuendoes, sneers, and sarcasms, against the Princess of Wales, should suddenly become the loudest declaimers about her *innocence* and her *sufferings*. This, we say, was not enough! Over-

seditious characters; and in the same article, their slanderous attacks upon a defenceless female (the Princess of Wales) are pointedly execrated. There is of course nothing *remarkable* in this circumstance; and it is only stated that the tables may be turned upon the Jacobins. Liberality and justice towards persecuted individuals have always been a prominent feature in that polished and fashionable publication; and we may go as far as to say, that the Princess herself has, no longer since than the year 1813, received a full share of benefit from that manly and disinterested feeling of the editor, which devotes his columns to the defence of the injured and oppressed, without regard to rank or station.

whelmed with *sympathy*, as the tender souls affected to be, they could not start up as the champions of the Princess of Wales, without falling, like a gang of *cannibals*, upon Lady Douglas, and tearing her reputation piecemeal!

And what, after all, is the sum and substance of Lady Douglas's offending? It would, we are bold enough to insist, in defiance of all the base crew of sycophants, be extremely difficult to make out a case less criminal, or even, *on the whole*, less censurable, than that of this female. Those who choose to believe that the statement which she has given in the following pages is not *totally false*, or *completely manufactured*, will also believe, that the treatment she experienced at Montague-house was most unhandsome, capricious, and insulting; and all that the world may be surprised at is, that no writer has had independence enough to make this assertion before. The public may puzzle themselves in vain to discover what *improper conduct* La-

dy Douglas was guilty of, *except that of ever again setting her foot in Montague-house*, after the conversation *she says* she was insulted by hearing on two or three occasions! But on one point, there can be no doubt whatever; and that is, that she was treated with *disrespect*, by one certainly of a much higher rank than herself, but who appears to have *courted her acquaintance;* and *disrespect*, without any plausible reason for it, towards a person of character and education, *ought never to be overlooked*, but ought, on the contrary, under *peculiar circumstances*, always to be followed by *indignation!** For, after all that can be said by parasites, how insignificant is the glare of inflated *rank*, when opposed to the enviable brilliancy of natural or acquired talents.—But we must abstain from digression. The poet justly says,

"*Hell* has no fury like a woman scorn'd."

Such conduct as that of Lady Douglas might

* *Verbum satis sapientibus!* HOR.

therefore naturally be expected from any one; for the causes which are *asserted* to have led to it would have stimulated the most generous disposition to resentment. In short, the only circumstance which her public enemies advance, as derogatory to her character, appears, in the opinion of the unprejudiced, a point materially in her favour. "She did not (say her revilers) *make any stir in the business for* FOUR YEARS after the occurrences took place." This, then, instead of demanding censure, ought to be viewed as a remarkable proof of her *forbearance.* She had buried in oblivion her resentment at the treatment she experienced: she wrote no *Book* on the subject, nor did she transmit any *comments on it*, in her correspondence with her friends, otherwise the *Investigation* could not have been delayed for a single quarter of a year!! But, however prudent might be her own conduct, she could not lay *an Injunction* on the tongues of others! It was, of course, at Montague-house that the *buzzing* first commenced, and

not at the peaceful retreat of Lady Douglas. At the former mansion, the subject, as appears from "*The Book*," was a constant topic of conversation, (we make no allusion to *the child*, we speak only of the "*flirting*,") and the ribaldry of Robert Bidgood, Fanny Lloyd, *the delicate-nerved, fainting virgin*, Mary Wilson, and the domestics in general, was the *real cause* of the proceedings that were deemed necessary; not the "*insinuations*" of Lady Douglas, who really appears to have insinuated nothing whatever, till she was COMMANDED to speak out. As to Bidgood, it will be seen* that he deposed to circumstances, (only on *hearsay evidence*, to be sure) which were calculated to satisfy the *most curious;* and which would undoubtedly have caused this person, or his *informants*, to be visited by prosecution and exemplary punishment, if some *very cogent reasons* (such, perhaps, as the difficulty of proving the slander against those who *first* set it afloat) had

* In Edwards's edition of The Book, p. 104.

not operated to prevent a pursuance of the matter to extremities!

When, however, the reported transactions at Montague-house had become a theme of *fashionable notoriety*, and an inquiry into their truth or falsehood was indispensable, Lady Douglas was applied to, because the servants had frequently spoken of her intimacy there, and of the rupture of the feeble partiality so ridiculously miscalled *friendship*. It was not supposed, that she would fabricate base reports; but she might either corroborate or overturn the insinuations of others, by deposing to circumstances of which she had been an eye-witness. Placed, then, in a situation which compelled her to disclose the nature and all the circumstances of her intercourse with the Princess of Wales, she evidently seems to have entered, with distressing repugnance to her feelings, into such details as have been arranged in the following Narrative. But the subject was far too important to allow of its *illustrations* resting upon *mere assertions*. The sacred formal-

ity of *an Oath* was therefore wanting, to give effect to her communications. Thus, when an examination was deemed necessary, before the members of the Privy Council, she was brought forward, to confirm the matters which she had *previously* transmitted in writing; and those who will take the trouble of comparing her DEPOSITION UPON OATH, as it appears in all the numerous editions of The Book, with the NARRATIVE which follows these remarks, will find that there is not the least inconsistency or contradiction between *the one* and *the other;* but, in the account here presented to the public, whatever could be remembered as bearing upon the subject, has been introduced.

And we would here ask the reader, whether, in the whole course of the persecution, any disposition has been manifested, on the part of Lady Douglas or her husband, to recant or extenuate any part of those statements which she has thought proper to make at her different examinations? There has not even been

a rumour of such an inclination. They solicited, on the contrary, to be allowed, to *prove the truth* of certain matters which they had asserted, as far at least as these could be proved by the indirect evidence they might offer; but they sought in vain for permission to re-establish that reputation of which a senseless clamour had deprived them; for this attempt, they received only a new portion of contumely; and they retired in disgust from a contest, in which their earnest protestations were reprobated with a scurrility worthy of St. Giles's!

Is this *justice*—is this *reason*—is this *humanity*—nay, is it *decency?*—What right has any person, on such common place and *ex-parte* grounds as are alone before him, to impeach Lady Douglas's veracity, or to question the integrity of her motives? But without descending to a display of acrimony towards her numerous calumniators, we shall insist, that the fact is, that her character has been immolated to satiate party prejudice, and the *high rank* of

the Personage whose conduct she scrutinized has formed the altar of sacrifice!

But Lady Douglas may still have *hopes* of receiving justice from the British people: *they* possess the same manly feelings as ever, and their natural abhorrence of oppression will, at no remote time, cause them to believe, that this female has been injured by their premature opinion. Their returning sense of justice will begin by the reflection, that her asseverations have been sanctioned by that most solemn of moral obligations which gives to the transactions of mankind the seal and stamp of veracity! And unless this sacred form of religion were to be credited in a far higher degree than mere *assertions*, there must be an end of all trust and confidence in the world. Let her enemies therefore remember, that when she was *forced* to give her *deposition*, she made a solemn appeal to GOD to witness the truth of all which it contained; hence, if *mankind* refuse to believe, the Almighty is a judge of her sincerity; and the least that can be said of

those who presume to arraign the truth of her testimony, is, that they are guilty of a gross act of wickedness and immorality.

But we have no objection to waive this powerful auxiliary, this sheet-anchor on which the reputation of the Douglas family may be *supposed* to rely. The public have already had time to try the merits of the topic by the balance of *common-sense;* and—here prudence requires that we should stop short * * * * *

There are certain acts in this life which want no illustration, because they carry their own evidence along with them. Nobody, for example, can deny, that there were certain extravagancies committed at Montague-house, which would have called forth the suspicions and ridicule of the most purblind dolts that ever filled domestic situations. The servants, however, at that petty palace, were by no means of this description. It was made a complaint by the Princess herself, that Mr. Bidgood had had *too good an education for his place;* and even in the remarks of Fanny

Lloyd, and most of the other females, we discover a habit of observation which bespeaks intelligent minds, who, at only a *false alarm* of dishonour, feel the blush of shame and indignation mantle in their cheeks! Such people, if not capable of logical disputation, can at least assimilate causes with effects, and draw inferences in the ordinary language which carries on the human intercourse. They can argue, that grass cannot sprout up without seed being sown, or that a house cannot be built without bricks and a foundation; and, from similar *antecedentia* and *consequentia*, they agree, that, as Lady Douglas was *once* upon terms of *extreme intimacy* with the Princess of Wales, their *misunderstanding* could not have originated in *nothing;* and their *friendship*, as it is called, could not have terminated without something *outrè* having occurred on one side or the other. But as, in this blessed piece of business, they cannot rake up even a *rumour* of misconduct on the part of Lady Douglas, their *ultimate* inference is evident. Such is the

reasoning of *nature*, which "needs not the aid of foreign ornament!"

But it is not Sir John and Lady Douglas alone, who have been subjected to a severe moral injury through this precious affair. We do in our conscience believe, that the conduct of a certain set towards the illustrious Regent was *meant* to be most disrespectful, disloyal, and infamous, and, to a certain extent, the *intended effect* was produced. For the last seven years, the Personage in question has, on this account, been assailed by all the repulsive contumely and insinuations of malice and impudence. To give an additional colour to their condemnation of his domestic resolutions, all his juvenile errors and indiscretions were raked up from the oblivion into which time and liberality had cast them, to be hurled at his devoted head, in furtherance of the long-existing project for destroying the attachment between People and Prince! And here we cannot but digress, to lament that the cry of reprobation was *first* issued by the staunch and veteran advocates

of *Church and King*. On this occasion, the persons in question laboured under the influence of that "dreadful termagant," excessive *zeal*, which certainly outran their *discretion*, and left them no time to reflect on the *consequences* of the line they were pursuing. Looking only at the moral influence of *example*, in the separation of the Royal Pair; forgetting that a similar example existed in a preceding reign of the house of Brunswick; (though we are far from advancing a *bad example* as a justification for its being repeated); and being, *even down to the present moment*, in total ignorance of the *real* CAUSES which induced a separate establishment, they ran into extremes; they could see nothing but a blaze of virtue, ability, innocence, and injury, on one side, and a mass of vice, apathy, and cruelty, on the other! Yet here, as Voltaire says, "they were *in error;*" for they would have come nearer to the fact, if they had believed, with that Sir John in the play, that "indeed there are *faults on both sides!*" The

very *idea* of an unfortunate stranger being in England, married, persecuted, and abandoned, is at any time, and we hope will ever be, sufficient to raise for her a phalanx of indignant and sympathetic defenders. So it happened with the Princess of Wales. All those well-meaning persons who pique themselves *on their excessive* LOYALTY, took the part of this unfortunate Personage, because they *presupposed* her injured, in the evidence of her living apart from her husband; while such a supposition was not only *disloyalty itself*, as believing the husband to possess a heart *capable* of inflicting injury on the wife; but, as it indicated a willingness on the part of other eminent characters to sanction illiberality, it became a libel on the honour and integrity of the whole of the Court and the Cabinet. We know many of these persons who have lately thought proper materially to alter their sentiments! They have regretted their premature and partial interference, and their error must find excuse in the *negative merit of good intentions!*

Their sensations, on discovering that their reprehensions have afforded a machine for the enemies of legitimate monarchy to degrade and calumniate the Heir to the Throne, may be unpleasant; but they will operate as an example, and under its influence we leave them, with sentiments of perfect charity; observing, by the way, that neither the Prince nor Lady Douglas owes any more to *their* liberality than they owe to that of the prejudiced mob!

It is, however, by no means the object of this essay to justify the conduct of one personage, or to stigmatize the indiscretions of another; but it is our opinion, that, as the public cannot *correctly* know the *causes* of a certain lamentable family dissension, an overstrained zeal, on either side, must be unserviceable and officious;—and Heaven knows, if zeal and officiousness be ever so *elastic*, they have been strained beyond all reason on a late occasion. *In future*, (although we sincerely hope that *this* matter is set at rest

for ever) the public will do credit to their penetration, by not being too precipitate in their judgment; for, priests may preach and philosophers may reason; but, after all, they will find it a hard task to make *black* appear *white*, or to reconcile *deep-rooted antipathies!* As to the general conduct of *one* great character, it is certainly capable of much extenuation. All, however, that shall be said here on this *delicate* topic is, that if he may have been in the habit of wandering with Solomon, he can at least plead in defence that he never had the advantage of a *body-guard* of such grave lecturers as David!!

The obloquy thrown upon the noblemen and gentlemen who formed the late and constitute the present Administration, is only another link to the chain of jacobinical infamy and injustice. It is true, that the proceedings relative to the "*Inquiry* took place when the Cabinet was formed of certain characters known by the appellation of "*the Prince's friends;*" yet nobody can doubt that some inquiry

was, at that particular time, absolutely necessary, and it must have taken place under *any* Ministry. This, indeed, is proved by the contents of the Cabinet Minute, of April 21, 1807; and it is equally clear, now the *nature of the evidence* is known to all Europe, that no Commissioners could have produced a *Report* more delicately worded, or more decisive as to the innocence of the Princess respecting the principal charge: in short, the sentiments contained in it were the soundest declarations of justice, blended with the language of *delicate reprehension.* All, indeed, that we are astonished at, is, that a clamour should have been raised by *one set* of partisans, because the Report contained even a single passage that could be construed into *censure!*—as if, because the main suspicion was completely falsified, all the subordinate incidents should have been passed over with silence, which might have been misconstrued into a sanction for their repetition! A very pretty *precedent* this would have been, indeed; for, afterwards,

who would have a right to complain, if the residences of *high characters* should have resembled those of Messalina or Sardanapalus? That the conduct, however, of the noble Commissioners was perfectly independent, dignified, and free from every shade of party feeling, is evident, from the coincidence with their observations, of that Administration of which Mr. Perceval was the head; which, in January, 1807, declared that they "*agree in the opinions* submitted to his Majesty in the original report!" In every other respect, the whig ministry have reason to curse the day when the repugnant task was imposed on them.

So far, then, the Tory ministry declare, that had *they* been in power, they would have acted precisely the same as the Whigs. Does it not therefore appear inconsistent, nay, even cruel, for the first mentioned characters to say, in the same document, that "they do not warrant advising that any farther steps should be taken in the business, except only such as his Majesty's law servants may, on reference to them,

think fit to recommend, *for the prosecution of Lady Douglas*, on those parts of her deposition which *may appear* to them to be justly liable thereto?"

Thus, it seems as if the Ministry of 1807 were loth to let the subject pass away without the *eclât* of a *sacrifice!* The appearance of Lady Douglas, moving in a circle, for an hour in Palace-yard, would have been a spectacle novel and interesting to John Bull; and it really does appear to have been by a chance that she escaped some kind of persecution, for complying with the express commands of the Heir Apparent. However, we know that neither the late nor the present statesmen have thought proper to direct any prosecution against her; and thus her character remains unvindicated; —in short, she has no redress. What a singular and shameful situation for an individual to be reduced to, in this boasted land of liberty! But it is farther remarkable, that the noble Commissioners did not, in their Report, even hint at the propriety of a prosecution. It was

left for the Princess's *quondam* friends, in council assembled, to *talk* upon the subject, and then to let it "vanish into air, thin air!"

It will be recollected, that, by the reported proceedings in Parliament, on the 6th of March last, the public were given to understand, that no *criminality* was imputable to her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales; that no case was made out, and that, therefore, the House was of opinion, that any *farther inquiry*, for which Mr. Johnstone moved, was superfluous. This gentleman is also reported to have said, that, "if he were rightly informed, Sir John and Lady Douglas *still persisted in the same story;* and he asked, if all they maintained were so notoriously false, WHY WERE THEY NOT PROSECUTED?"

This is, indeed, a very plausible question. If *all*, all, is so *notoriously false*, why not indict them at least for a *libel;* seeing that, according to the notions of some profound sages of the law, it would be *difficult to prove* a CONSPIRACY against them! But it seems from all

that has appeared on the subject, that these persons are not to be *intimidated*, by threats of a prosecution, into a *recantation* of what has been so solemnly sworn, and thus to put themselves in a condition to be prosecuted, by standing *self-convicted* of *perjury* and *detraction*. This, however, is what seemed to be desired by some shallow-headed parasites. But it appears far more likely, that, after so much *perseverance*, they will persist in the "*same story*" for the remainder of their lives.

We have already alluded to the disgraceful misrepresentations of the conduct of the four noble Commissioners who drew up the Report. Although we acknowledge them to be as much above the effects of the calumny as its propagators are beneath contempt, we feel an honest pride in paying our humble tribute to their character. They are shielded by the panoply of conscious rectitude; and posterity will justify the firmness with which they fulfilled a most obnoxious task, the execution of which it was impossible for them to decline.

Nor will any sophistry convince the reasonable portion of the world, that the "*serious admonition*" recommended in the Report was not an imperative duty on their part.

The publication of *the Book* has certainly been favorable rather than disadvantageous to the Douglases; inasmuch as it has put a limit to the previous *exaggerations* of their conduct. In every other respect, its appearance is a circumstance deeply to be deplored. Many a heavy sacrifice had been made to prevent the contents of this most precious work from ever meeting the public view; and certainly the great Personage, who was so anxious to prevent them from exposure, was influenced by a feeling of repugnance at the universal publicity of the evidence of Cole, Bidgood, and others; at the idea of which (in the words of the *Times* on the 11th of February last,) every sensitive mind must shrink! Deaf, however, to the suggestions of policy and reason, and wilfully blind to *all the consequences of an inevitable* RE-ACTION of the public sentiment, the despe-

rate advisers of the Princess of Wales, by the production of her memorable Letter, forced from the sacred pigeon-holes of office the precious documents which they had so long concealed. And thus, like unskilful Phäetons, they have caused an explosion which cannot but be *unpleasant* in the very quarter that, but for their officious obtrusion, might have been for ever *screened* from its effects!

At all events, *the Princess of Wales has (in our opinion at least) gained nothing whatever by these disclosures.* She has, on the contrary, been compelled to submit to the *indignity* of receiving and hearing from the *Pariahs** of Britain, such libels against her illustrious family as they could not have dared to utter, without the opportunity

* *Pariahs,* as perhaps all our readers may know, are those *outcasts* of India, whose very touch is considered as pollution, and who are consequently excommunicated, shunned, and despised, by all persons who have the least pretensions to character or respectability. The application will doubtlessly be deemed appropriate for those far more infamous and audacious reprobates *at home,* who are designated by sedate and sensible people as *Jacobins,* or *seditious demagogues!*

which she so unhappily afforded them; while *etiquette* required that she should repeat to each gang, a different lesson of *thanks* and *gratitude!!!*

As to the conduct of those by whom that illustrious female is immediately surrounded—those

> "Rash, inconsiderate, fiery, voluntaries,
> With ladies' faces, but fierce dragons' spleens."

we forbear to dilate upon it; and out of sheer charity, we will spare them as much as possible. By their disreputable and absurd endeavours, they have made themselves sufficiently ridiculous, and marred the cause they attempted to support; besides, let it be remembered, that OUR object is NOT "*to sting and venom!*" If such unworthy views could ever enter our contemplation, *we possess the means* of more *completely* effecting that purpose than themselves, or, perhaps, than any other persons who have yet interfered with the subject. But no! the mind which dictates this effusion never yet lent its

energies to a deed of dishonour, nor ever will. If it may assist in bringing Lady Douglas over the whirlpool of popular indignation, which is still as violent as ever, enough will be attained.

For the rest, it shall be added, that, however great may have been her indiscretions, she is an extremely injured person. Nothing that rank can offer or respectability accept, can compensate for the unjust and cruel obloquy to which she and her family have been subjected through the honest performance of an imperative duty towards the throne. It is from *the public* that they have met their injuries:—from them, if they wait with fortitude and patience, they may one day have retribution!

With a few words more we shall close these preliminary remarks. The people of England are egregiously disappointed as to the contents of *The Book.* They persist in a belief that all the facts which *could* have been printed on this important and indelicate subject

have not appeared in it. THEY ARE CORRECT IN THEIR CONJECTURE! Yet what right had the public to expect gratification, at the expense of private peace and sensibility? But they have only to recollect *by whom*, and for *what purpose*, the said Book was prepared; and, however greatly they may be disappointed, they surely cannot be *surprised!* The long suspense in which they were kept, a suspense heightened by a thousand preposterous exaggerations, excited a curiosity which *The Book* has been very far from allaying: time, however, may effect wonders!

We shall now proceed to the Narrative of occurrences, from the pen of Lady Douglas, *which will at least render more complete, by forming a counterpart to, those numerous editions of The Book with which the world has been inundated,* but which only contain Lady Douglas's DEPOSITION UPON OATH, *and not one syllable of the contents of the following pages!** The *notes* which are added

* It is not meant that the contents of the Narrative have

may be considered as so many *rational observations*, by a different hand, which the reader can of course agree with, or dissent from, according to the bent of his predisposed opinion.

For ourselves, we feel so deeply for the situation of a certain illustrious female, that we seriously lament the necessity we have been under of making so many allusions to past and unpleasant transactions. But the case in question is like one in a court of law, where RANK, with the whole world at its back, is plaintiff, and unprotected OBSCURITY is defendant. We have chosen to become voluntary counsel for the latter, and our attempt must find its excuse in the liberality of the motive.

never before appeared in print. To those who have read *one* edition of the Book, it will not be new.

A NARRATIVE

OF

CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS

WHICH TOOK PLACE AT

MONTAGUE-HOUSE.

By LADY DOUGLAS.

His Royal highness the Prince of Wales having judged proper to order me to detail to him, as Heir Apparent, the whole circumstance of my acquaintance with her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, from the day I first spoke with her to the present time, I felt it my duty as a subject to comply without hesitation with his Royal Highness's commands; and I did so, because I conceived, even putting aside the rights of an heir apparent, his royal highness was justified in informing himself as to the actions of his wife, who, from all the information he had collected, seemed so likely to disturb the tranquillity of the country; and it appeared to me that, in so doing, his royal highness evinced his earnest regard for the real interest of the country, in endeavouring to prevent such a

person from, perhaps, one day, placing a spurious heir upon the English throne, and which his royal highness has indeed a right to fear, and communicate to the sovereign; as the Princess of Wales told me, " If she were discovered in bringing her son into the world, she would give the Prince of Wales the credit of it, for that she had slept two nights in the year she was pregnant in Carlton House." (A.)

As an Englishwoman educated in the highest respectful attachment to the royal family: as the daughter of an English Officer, who has all his life received the most gracious marks of approbation and protection from his Majesty, and from his royal highness the Prince of Wales; and as the wife of an Officer, whom our beloved King has honoured with a public mark of his approbation, and who is bound to the royal family by ties of respectful regard and attachment, which nothing can ever break, I feel it my duty to make known the Princess of Wales's sentiments and conduct, now, and whensoever I may be called upon. (B.)

For the information, therefore, of his Majesty and of the heir apparent, I beg leave to state, that Sir John took a house upon Blackheath in the year 1801, because the air was better for him, after his Egyptian services, than London; and it was somewhat nearer Chatham, where his military duties occasionally called him. I had a

daughter born upon the 17th of February, and we took up our residence there in April, living very happily and quietly; but in the month of November, when the ground was covered with snow, as I was sitting in my parlour, which commanded a view of the Heath, I saw to my surprise, the Princess of Wales, elegantly dressed in a lilac satin pelisse, primrose-coloured half boots, and a small lilac satin travelling-cap, faced with sable, and a lady, pacing up and down before the house, and sometimes stopping, as if desirous of opening the gate in the iron railing to come in. At first I had no conception her royal highness really wished to come in, but must have mistaken the house for another person's, for I had never been made known to her, I did not know that she knew where I lived. I stood at the window looking at her; and, as she looked very much, from respect, courtsied (as I understood was customary); to my astonishment she returned my courtsey by a familiar nod, and stopped.

Old Lady Stuart, a West Indian lady, who lived in my immediate neighbourhood, and who was in the habit of coming to see me, was in the room, and said, "You should go out, her royal highness wants to come in out of the snow." Upon this I went out, and she came immediately to me and said, "I believe you are Lady Douglas, and you have a very beautiful child; I should like to see

it." I answered, that I was Lady Douglas. Her royal highness then said, "I should like of all things to see your little child." I answered, that I was very sorry I could not have the honour of presenting my little girl to her, as I and my family were spending the cold weather in town, and I was only come to pass an hour or two upon the Heath. I held open the gate, and the Princess of Wales and her lady, Miss Heyman (I believe) walked in and sat down, and stayed above an hour, laughing very much at Lady Stuart, who being a singular character, talked all kind of nonsense. After her royal highness had amused herself as long as she pleased, she inquired where Sir John Douglas and Sir Sidney Smith were, and went away, having shook hands with me, and expressed her pleasure at having found me out and made herself known: I concluded that Sir Sidney Smith had acquainted her royal highness that we resided upon the Heath, as he was just arrived in England, and, having been in long habits of friendship with Sir John, was often with us, and told us how kind he should think it if we could let him come to and fro without ceremony, and let him have an airy room appropriated to himself, as he was always ill in town, and, from being asthmatic, suffered extremely when the weather was foggy in town. Sir John gave him that hospitable reception he was in the habit of doing by all his friends, (for I understand they have been known to each

other more than twenty years,) and he introduced him to me as a person to whom he wished my friendly attention to be paid; as I had never seen sir Sidney Smith in my life, until this period, when he became, as it were, a part of the family. When I returned to town, I told sir John Douglas the circumstance of the Princess having visited me, and a few days after this, we received a note from Mrs. Lisle (who was in waiting) commanding us to dine at Montague-house. (D.) We went, and there were several persons at the dinner. I remember Lord and Lady Dartmouth, and I think Mr. and Mrs. Arbuthnot, &c. &c. From this time the Princess made me frequent visits, always attended by her ladies, or Mrs. Sander (her maid). When Sander came, she was sent back or put in another room; but when any of her ladies were with her, we always sat together. Her royal highness was never attended by any livery-servants, but she always walked about Blackheath and the neighbourhood only with her female attendants. In a short time, the Princess became so extravagantly fond of me, that, however flattering it might be, it certainly was very troublesome. Leaving her attendants below, she would push past my servant, and run up stairs into my bed-chamber, kiss me, take me in her arms, and tell me I was beautiful, saying she had never loved any woman so much; that she would regulate my dress, for she delighted in setting off a pretty woman: and such

high-flown compliments that women are never used to pay to each other. (E.) I used to beg her royal highness not to feed my self-love, as we had all enough of that, without encouraging one another. She would then stop me, and enumerate all my good points I had, saying she was determined to teach me to set them off. She would exclaim, "Oh! believe me, you are quite beautiful, different from almost any English woman; your arms are fine beyond imagination, your bust is very good, and your eyes, Oh, I never saw such eyes—all other women who have dark eyes look fierce, but your's (my dear Lady Douglas) are nothing but softness and sweetness, and yet quite dark." In this manner she went on perpetually, even before strangers. (F.) I remember when I was one morning at her house, with her royal highness, Mrs. Harcourt, and her ladies, the Duke of Kent came to take leave before his royal highness went to Gibraltar. When we were sitting at table, the Princess introduced me, and said,—"Your royal highness must look at her eyes; but now she has disguised herself in a large hat, you cannot see how handsome she is." The Duke of Kent was very polite and obliging, for he continued to talk with Mrs. Harcourt, and took little notice, for which I felt much obliged; but she persisted, and said—"Take off your hat." I did not do it, and she took it off; but his royal highness, I suppose, conceiving it would not be very

pleasant to me, took little notice, and talked of something else. (G.)

Whenever the Princess visited us, either sir John, or I, returned home with her and her party quite to the door; and if he were out, I went with her royal highness, and took my footman; for we soon saw that her royal highness was a very singular and very indiscreet woman, (H.) and we resolved to be always very careful and guarded with her; and when she visited us, if any visitor whatsoever came to our house, they were put into another room, and they could not see the Princess, or be in her society, unless she positively desired it. However her royal highness forgot her high station, (and she was always forgetting it,) we trust, and hope, and feel satisfied, we never for a moment lost sight of her being the wife of the heir apparent.

We passed our time as her royal highness chose when together, and the usual amusements were — playing French proverbs, in which the Princess always cast the parts and played; musical magic, forfeits of all kinds; sometimes dancing; and in this manner, either the Princess and her ladies with me, or we at Montague-house, we passed our time. Twice, after spending the morning with me, she remained without giving me any previous notice, and would dine with us; and thus ended the year 1801.

In the month of February, before Miss Garth was to come into waiting in March, 1802, the Princess, in one of her morning visits, after she had sent Sander home, said, " My dear Lady Douglas, I am come to see you this morning to ask a great favour of you, which I hope you will grant me." I told her, I was sure she could not make any unworthy request, and that I could only say, I should have great pleasure in doing any thing to oblige her, but I was really at a loss to guess how I possibly could have it in my power to grant her a favour. Her royal highness replied, " what I have to ask is for you to come and spend a fortnight with me; you shall not be separated from sir John, for he may be with you whenever he pleases, and bring your little girl and maid. I mean you to come to the round tower, where there are a complete suit of rooms for a lady and her servant. When Mrs. Lisle was in waiting, and hurt her foot, she resided there; Miss Heyman always was there, and Lord and Lady Lavington have slept there. When I have any married people visiting me, it is better than their being in the house, and we are only separated by a small garden. I dislike Miss Garth, and she hates to be with me, more than what her duty demands, and I don't wish to trouble any of my ladies out of their turn. I shall require you, as lady in waiting, to attend me in my walks, and when I drive out; write my notes and letters for me, and be

in the way to speak to any one who may come on business. I seldom appear until about three o'clock, and you may go home before I want you after breakfast every day." I replied, that, being a married woman, I could not promise for myself; and, as Sir John was much out of health, I should not like to leave him; but he was always so kind and good-natured to me, that I dared venture to say he would allow me if he could; and when he came home I asked him if I should go. Sir John agreed to the Princess's desire, and I took the waiting. During my stay I attended her royal highness to the play and the opera, I think twice, and also to dine at Lord Dartmouth's and Mr. Windham's. (I.) At Mr. Windham's, in the evening, while one of the ladies was at the harpsichord, the Princess complained of being very warm, and called out for ale, which, by a mistake in the language, she always calls *oil*. Mrs. Windham was perfectly at a loss to comprehend her wishes, and came to me for an explanation. I told her I believed she meant ale. Mrs. Windham said she had none in her house; was it any particular kind she required? I told her I believed not; that when the Princess thought proper to visit me, she always wanted it, and I gave her what I had, or could procure for her upon Blackheath. We could not always suddenly obtain what was wished. Mrs. Windham then proposed to have some sent for, and did so; it was brought, and the Princess drank it all.

When at Lord Dartmouth's, his lordship asked me if I was the only lady in waiting, being, I supposed, surprised at my appearing in that situation, when, to his knowledge, I had not known the Princess more than four months. I answered, I was at Montague-house, acting as lady in waiting, until Miss Garth was well, as the Princess told me she was ill. Lord Dartmouth looked surprised, and said he had not heard of Miss Garth being ill, and was surprised. I was struck with Lord Dartmouth's seeming doubt of Miss Garth's illness, and after-thought upon it. From the dinner we went at an early hour to the opera, and then returned to Blackheath. During this visit I was greatly surprised at *the whole stile of the Princess of Wales's conversation, which was constantly very loose and such as I had not been accustomed to hear; such as, in many instances, I have not been able to repeat, even to sir John, and such as made me hope I should cease to know her, before my daughter might be old enough to be corrupted by her.* I confess I went home hoping and believing she was at times a good deal disordered in her senses, or she never would have gone on as she did. (K.) When she came to sup with me in the tower, (which she often did) she would arrive in a long red cloak, a silk handkerchief tied over her head under her chin, and a pair of slippers down at the heels.

After supper, I attended her to the house. I found her a person without education or talents, and without any desire of improving herself. (L.) Amongst other things which surprised me while there, was a plan she told me she had in hand; that Prince William of Gloucester liked me, and that she had written to him, to tell him a fair lady was in her tower, that she left it to his own heart to find out who it was, but if he was the gallant prince that she thought him, he would fly and see. I was amazed at such a contrivance, and said, Good God! how could your royal highness do so? I really like Sir John better than any body, and am quite satisfied and happy. I waited nine years for him, and never would marry any other person. The Princess ridiculed this, and said, "Nonsense, nonsense, my dear friend." In consequence of the Princess's note, Prince William actually rode the next morning to the tower, but by good fortune Sir Sidney Smith had previously called, and had been admitted, and as we were walking by the house, her royal highness saw the Prince coming, went immediately out of sight, and ran and told a servant to say she and I were gone walking, and we immediately walked away to Charlton, having first, unperceived, seen Prince William ride back again, (of course not very well pleased, and possibly believing I had a hand in this ridiculous adventure.) It seems he was angry, for soon after his royal highness, the late Duke of

Gloucester, came and desired to see the Princess, and told her, that his son William had represented to him how very free she permitted sir Sidney Smith to be, and how constantly he was visiting at Montague-house; that it rested with herself to keep her acquaintance at a proper distance; and as sir Sidney was a lively thoughtless man, and had not been accustomed to the company of ladies of her rank, he might forget himself, and she would then have herself to blame—that as a father and an earnest friend he came to her, very sorry indeed to trouble her, but he conjured and begged her to recollect how very peculiar her situation was, and how doubly requisite it was she should be more cautious than other people. To end this lecture (as she called it) she rang the bell, and desired Mr. Cole to fetch me. (M.) I went into the drawing-room, where the Duke and her royal highness were sitting, and she introduced me as an old friend of Prince William's. His royal highness got up and looked at me very much, and then said, "the Princess has been talking a great deal about you, and tells me you have *made* (N.) one of the most delightful children in the world; and indeed it might be so, when the mother was so handsome and good-natured-looking." By this time, I was so used to these fine speeches, either from the Princess, or from her through others, that I was ready to laugh, and only said,

"We did not talk about much beauty, but my little girl was in good health, and her royal highness was very obliging." As soon as his royal highness was gone, the Princess sent again for me, told me every word he had said, and said, "he is a good man, and therefore I took it as it was meant; but if Prince William had ventured to talk to me himself, I would certainly have boxed his ears; however, as he is so inquisitive, and watches me, I will cheat him, and throw dust in his eyes, and make him believe sir Sidney comes here to see you, and that you and he are the greatest possible friends. I delight of all things in cheating those clever people." Her speech and intentions made me serious, and my mind was forcibly struck with the great danger there would follow to myself, if she was this kind of person. I begged her not to think of such a thing, saying, your royal highness knows it is not so, and although I would do much to oblige you, yet, when my own character is at stake, I must stop. Good God, Ma'am, his royal highness would naturally repeat it, and what should I do? Reputation will not bear being sported with. The Princess took me by the hand, and said, "certainly, my dear Lady Douglas, I know very well it is not so, and therefore it does not signify. I am sure it is not so, *that* I am sure of. I have much too good an opinion of you, and too good an opinion of sir Sidney Smith. It would be very bad in him after sir John's hospi-

tality to him. I know him incapable of such a thing, for I have known him a long time; but still I wonder too in the same house it does not happen."(O.) By this time I was rather vexed, and said, your royal highness and I think differently—Sir Sidney Smith comes and does as he pleases to his room in our house. I really see little of him. He seems a very good humoured, pleasant man, and I always think one may be upon very friendly terms with men who are friends of one's husbands, without being their humble servants. The Princess argued upon this for an hour; said, this is Miss Garth's argument, but she was mistaken, and it was ridiculous. If ever a woman was upon friendly terms with any man, they were sure to become lovers.(P.) I said, I shall continue to think as Miss Garth did, and that it depended very much upon the lady. Upon the 29th of March, I left Montague-house, and the Princess commanded me to be sent up to her bed-chamber. I went and found her in bed, and I took Mrs. Vansittart's note in my hand, announcing the news of Peace. She desired me to sit down close to her bed, and then, taking my hand, she said, "You see, my dear friend, I have the most complaisant husband in the world—I have no one to control *me*. I see whom I like, I go where I like, I spend what I please, and his royal highness pays for all—other husbands plague their wives, but he never plagues me at all, which is certainly being very polite and

complaisant, and I am better off than my sister, who was heartily beat every day. How much happier am I than the Duchess of York! She and the Duke hate each other, and yet they will be two hypocrites, and live together, and that I will never do.—Now I'll shew you a letter wherein the Prince of Wales gives me full leave to follow my own plans." She then put the letter into my hands, the particulars of which I have mentioned. (Q.) When I had finished, I appeared affected, and she said, "You seem to think that a fine thing; now I see nothing in it; but I dare say that when my beloved had finished it, he fancied it one of the finest pieces of penmanship in the world. I should have been the man, and he the woman. I am a real Brunswick, and do not know what the sensation of fear is; but as to him he lives in eternal warm water, and delights in it, if he can but have his slippers under any old Dowager's table, and sit there scribbling notes; that's his whole delight." She then told every circumstance relative to her marriage, and that she would be separated, and that she had invited the Chancellor very often lately, to try and accomplish it, but they were stupid, and told her it could not be done. It appeared to me that at this time her royal highness's mind was bent upon the accomplishment of this purpose; and it would be found, I think, from Lord Eldon and the others, that she pressed this subject close upon them, whenever they

were at Montague-house; for she told me more than once she had. Her royal highness before she put the letter by, said, "I always keep this, for it is ever necessary. I will go into the House of Lords with it myself. The Prince of Wales desires me, in that letter, to choose my own plan of life, and amuse myself as I like; and also, when I lived at Carlton House, he often asked me why I did not select some particular gentleman for my friend, and was surprised I did not."—She then added, "I am not treated at all as a Princess of Wales ought to be. As to the friendship of the Duke of Gloucester's family, I understand that Prince William would like to marry either my daughter or me, if he could. I now therefore am desirous of forming a society of my own choosing, and I beg you always to remember, all your life, that I shall always be happy to see you. I think you very discreet, and the best woman in the world, and I beg you to consider the Tower always as your own; there are offices, and you might almost live there; and if sir John is ever called away, do not go home to your family; it is not pleasant after people have children, therefore always come to my Tower. I hope to see you there very soon again. The Prince has offered me sixty thousand if I'll go and live at Hanover, but I never will; this is the only country in the world to live in."(R.) She then kissed me, and I took my leave.

While I had been in the round tower in Montague House, which only consists of two rooms and a closet on a floor, I had always my maid and child slept within my room, and sir John was generally with me: he and all my friends having free permission to visit. Mr. Cole (the Page) slept over my room, and a watchman went round the tower all night. Upon my return home, the same apparent friendship continued, and in one of her royal highness's evening visits she told me, she was come to have a long conversation with me, that she had been in a great agitation, and I must guess what had happened to her. I guessed a great many things, but she said No, to them all, and then said I gave it up, for I had no idea what she could mean, and therefore might guess my whole life without success. "Well then, I must tell you," said her royal highness, "but I am sure you know all the while. I thought you had completely found me out, and therefore I came to you, for you looked droll when I called for ale and fried onions and potatoes, and when I said I eat tongue and chickens at my breakfasts; that I would sure as my life you suspected me; tell me honestly, did you not?" I affected not to understand the Princess at all, and did not really comprehend her. She then said, "well, I'll tell; I am with child, and the child came to life when I was breakfasting with Lady Willoughby. The milk flowed up into my breast so fast, that it came through

my muslin gown, and I was obliged to pretend that I had spilt something, and go up stairs into Lady Willoughby's room, and did very well, but it was an unlucky adventure." I was, indeed, most sincerely concerned for her, conceiving it impossible but she must be ruined, and I expressed my sorrow in the strongest terms, saying, what would she do? she could never carry such an affair through, and I then said I hoped she was mistaken. She said no, she was sure of it, and these sort of things only required a good courage, that she should manage very well; but though she told me she would not employ me in the business, for I was like all the English women, so very nervous; and she had observed me so frightened a few days past, when a horse galloped near me, that she would not let me have any thing to do for the world. The Princess added, "You will be surprised to see how well I manage it, and I am determined to suckle the child myself." I expressed my great apprehensions, and asked her what she would do if the Prince of Wales seized her person, when she was a wet nurse? (S.) She said she would never suffer any one to touch her person: she laughed at my fears, and added, "You know nothing about these things; if you had read *Les Avantures du Chevalier de Grammont*, you would know better what famous tricks Princesses and their ladies played then, and you shall and must read the story of Catherine Parr and a Lady

Douglas of those times; have you never heard of it?" I looked upon it as her own invention to reconcile my mind to these kind of things. After this we often met, and the Princess often alluded to her situation and to mine, and one day as we were sitting together upon the sofa, she put her hand upon her stomach, and said, laughing, "Well, here we sit like Mary and Elizabeth, in the Bible." When she was bled, she used to press me always to be, and used to be quite angry that I would not, and whatever she thought good for herself, always recommended to me. Her royal highness now took every occasion to estrange me from sir John, by laughing at him, and wondering how I could be content with him; urged me constantly to keep my own room, and not to continue to sleep with him, and said, if I had any more children, she would have nothing more to say to me. Her design was evident, and easily seen through, and consequently averted: she naturally wished to keep us apart, lest, in a moment of confidence, I should repeat what she had divulged, and if she estranged me from my husband, she kept me to herself.(T.) I took especial care therefore, that my regard for him should not be undermined. I never told him her situation, and contrary to her wishes, sir John and I remained upon the same happy terms we always had.

It will scarcely be credited, (nevertheless it is strictly true, and *those who were present must avow it, or perjure themselves) what liberty the Princess gave both to her thoughts and her tongue, in respect to every part of the royal family.*(V.) It was disgusting to us beyond the power of language to describe, and upon such occasions we always believed and hoped she could not be aware of what she was talking about, otherwise common family affection, common sense, and common policy, would have kept her silent. She said, before the two Fitzgeralds, sir Sydney Smith and ourselves, that when Mr. Addington had his house given him, his Majesty did not know what he was about, and waved her hand round and round her head, laughing, and saying "certainly he did not; but the Queen got twenty thousand, so that was all very well." We were all at a loss, and no one said any thing. This was at my house one morning; the rest of the morning passed in abusing Mr. Addington (now Lord Sidmouth), and her critiques upon him closed by saying, "It was not much wonder a Peace was not lasting, when it was made by the son of a quack doctor."(U.) Before Miss Hamond, one evening at my house she said, "Prince William is going to Russia, and there is to be a grand alliance with a Russian Princess, but it is not very likely, a Russian Princess will marry the grandson of a washerwoman." Sir Sydney Smith, who was present,

begged her pardon, asserted it was not so, and wished to stop her, but she contradicted him, and entered into all she knew of the private history of the Duchess's mother, saying, "she was literally a common washerwoman, and the Duchess need not to take so much pains and not to expose her skin to the open air, when her mother had been in it all day long."

When she was gone, sir John was very much disgusted, and said, her conversation had been so low, and ill judged, and so much below her, that he was perfectly ashamed of her, and she disgraced her station: sir Sidney Smith agreed, and confessed he was astonished, for it must be confessed she was not deserving of her station. After the Duke of Kent had been so kind as to come and take leave of her, before he last left England, upon the day I mentioned, she delivered her critique upon his royal highness, saying, "He had the manners of a Prince, but was a disagreeable man, and not to be trusted, and that his Majesty had told him. 'Now, sir, when you go to Gibraltar, do not make such a trade of it as you did when you went to Halifax.' The Princess repeated, upon my honour it is true; the King said, 'Do not make such a trade of it.' She went on to say, "the Prince at first ordered them all to keep away, but they came now sometimes: however they were no loss, for there is not a man among them all, whom any one can make their friend."

As I was with the Princess one morning in her garden house, his royal highness the Duke of Cumberland waited upon her. As soon as he was gone, she said, "he was a foolish boy, and had been asking her a thousand foolish questions." She then told me every word of his secrets, which he had been telling her; in particular, a long story about Miss Keppel, and that he said, the old woman left them together, and wanted to take him in, and therefore he had cut the connection. She said she liked his countenance best, but she could trace a little family likeness to herself; but for all the rest they were very ill made, and had plum-pudding faces, which she could not bear. His royal highness the Duke of Cambridge was next ridiculed. She said, "he looked exactly like a serjeant, and so vulgar with his ears full of powder." This was her royal highness's usual and favorite mode of amusing herself and her company. The conversation was always about men, praising the Englishmen, reviling all English women, as being the ugliest creatures in the world, and the worst, and always engaged in some project or another, as the impulses of the moment might prompt, without regard to consequences or appearances. Whether she amused other people in the same way, I know not, but she chose to relate to me every private circumstance she knew relative to every part of the royal family, and also every thing relative to her own, with

such strange anecdotes, and *circumstantial accounts of things that are never talked of,* that I again repeat, I hope I shall never hear again; and I remember once in my lying-in-room, she gave such an account of Lady Ann Windham's marriage, and all her husband said on the occasion, that Mrs. Fitzgerald sent her daughter out of the room, while her royal highness finished her story. Such was the person we found her royal highness the Princess of Wales, and as we continued to see her character and faults, sir John and myself more and more, daily and hourly, regretted that the world could not see her as we did, and that his royal highness the Prince of Wales should have lost *any popularity,* when, from her own account (the only account we ever had) *she* was the aggressor from the beginning; herself, *alone;* and I as an humble individual, declare, that from the most *heartfelt* and unfeigned conviction, that I believe if any other married woman had acted as her royal highness has done, I never yet have known a man who could have endured it; and her temper is so tyrannical, capricious, and furious, that no man on earth will ever bear it; and, in private life, any woman who had thus played and sported with her husband's comfort and her husband's popularity, would have been turned out of her house, or left by herself in it, and would deservedly have forfeited her place in society. I therefore again beg leave to repeat, from the

conviction of my own unbiassed understanding, and the conviction of my own eyes, no human being could live with her, excepting her servants for their wages; and any poor unfortunate woman like the Fitzgeralds, for their dinner; (W.) and I trust and hope her real character will sometime or another be displayed, that the people of this country may not be imposed upon. The Princess was now sometimes kind, and at others churlish, especially if I would not fall into her plans of ridiculing sir John. About this time, one day at table with her, she began abusing Lady Rumbold (whom she had invited to see her a few days before, to give her letters of recommendation if she went to Brunswick), and as the abuse was in the usual violent vulgar stile, and I had never seen Lady Rumbold but that one morning, when she was her royal highness's guest, and cared nothing about her, I did not join in reviling her and Miss Rumbold. Sir Sidney Smith was present, and as there appeared a great friendship between the Rumbolds and him, I thought it not civil to him to say any thing, and one always conceives, in being quite silent, one must be safe from offending any party. I was, however, mistaken: for, observing me quite silent, she looked at me in a dreadful passion, and said, "why don't you speak, Lady Douglas? I know you think her ugly as well as us—a vulgar common milliner; Lord Heavens! that she was; and her daughter looks

just like a girl that walks up the street." I suppose she expected, by this thundering appeal, to force me to join in the abuse; but it had a contrary effect upon me. I chose to judge entirely for myself, and I was determined I would not; therefore, when she had raved until she could go on no longer, I said I did not think her ugly: it was a harsh term—I thought her manner very bad, and that she was very ill-dressed; but when young, I thought she must have been a pretty woman. This was past her power of enduring, which I really did not know, or I would have remained silent. She fixed her eyes furiously upon me, and bawled out, "then you're a liar, you're a liar, and the child *you're going to have* will be a liar." (U.U.) I pushed my plate from me, eat no more, and remained silent, and my first impulse was to push back my chair and quit the house, but the idea that I should break up the party from table, and make a confusion, and also my not being able to walk home, and my carriage not being ordered until night, left me in the chair. The conversation was changed; at last, sir Sidney said again, "Well, these ladies have had a severe trimming, they had better not come to Blackheath; and there sits poor Lady Douglas, looking as if she were going to be executed." As I was very far advanced in pregnancy, it agitated me greatly, and I remained aloof and very shy all the evening. When I afterwards wrote to sir Sidney Smith for sir John

upon some common occurrence, I said I did not like the Princess of Wales's mode of treating her guests: her calling me a liar was an unpardonable thing, and if she ever speaks on the subject to you, pray tell her I did not like it, and that, if I had been a man, I would have rather died than endured it; that it is a thing which never on any account occurs to a lady; on a repetition of it I will give up her acquaintance. It seems sir Sidney Smith spoke to the Princess upon the subject; for two days before I was confined, she made me a morning visit with the two Fitzgeralds, and, after having sat a short time, said, "I find you were very much affronted the other day at my house, when I called you a liar; I declare I did not mean it as an affront; Lord heavens! in any other language it is considered a joke; is it not, Mrs. Fitzgerald?" meaning that in Germany it is a very good joke to call people liars, (for Mrs. Fitzgerald does not know any language but German and English); Mrs. Fitzgerald absolutely said, yes. They made me very nervous, and I burst into tears; and told the Princess I only wished her to understand such a thing was never done, and was far from desiring her to apologize to me; that I had now forgiven and forgotten it, though I confess, at the time, I was very much hurt, and very much wounded; that as I never heard of its being thought a joke in any country, (W.W.) I was not in the least prepared to receive it in that light;

for that, in this country, ladies never used the expression and men only to show their greatest contempt; that I never bore malice twelve hours in my life, and there was an end of the matter. The Fitzgeralds sat by, sometimes as audience, approving by looks; sometimes as orators, begging me not to cry, (after they had made me), and praising her royal highness as the most magnanimous, amiable, good, beautiful, and gracious Princess in the world. In short, they tormented me till they made me quite hysterical; and the Princess then began to be frightened, and they all got up to look about the room for hartshorn, or something of that kind, to give me—the Princess crying, "Give her something, give her something; she is very much shook, and her nerves agitated; she will be taken ill." They gave me some water, I believe, and I did all I could to recover my spirits; but I felt in pain, and sir John came in soon after, and as I knew it would hurry him if he saw me ill, I appeared as cheerful as I could, and they all went away, the Princess taking no notice to him. Her royal highness had always said, she would be at my lying-in from the beginning to the end, and commanded me constantly to let her know, saying, "I have no fear about me, and I would as soon come over the heath in the middle of the night as in the day; I shall have a bottle of port wine on a table to keep up your spirits, a tambourine, and I'll *make sing*." (X.)

I was unwell all the night after her royal highness had been with me, and remained so all next day; and next morning by six o'clock was so ill, that Dr. Mackie, of Lewisham, who was to attend me, was sent for. In the forenoon I begged sir John to write a note for Montague-house, where it so happened I was to have dined with the party. He wrote that I had the head-ache, and begged leave to remain at home, and the Princess believed it, and went to town; but upon her return, at five o'clock in the afternoon, she called before she went home to dress, to ask after me, and finding how it was, wanted to run up into the room, but Dr. Mackie said positively she should not come, and locked the door nearest him to keep her out. Miss Cholmondely and Miss Fitzgerald were drove home, and her royal highness and Mrs. Fitzgerald stopped. Upon my giving a loud shriek, she flew in at the other door, and came to me, doing every thing she possibly could to assist me, and held my eyes and head. The moment she heard the child's voice she left me, flew round to Dr. Mackie, pushed the nurse away, and received the child from Doctor Mackie, kissed it, and said no one should touch it until she had shewn it to me. Doctor Mackie was so confused and astonished, that, although an old practitioner, he left the room without giving me any thing to recruit my strength and avert fainting, as is the custom, and the nurse gave me what she thought

best; by which omission, however, I was not subject to faint away, but it was certainly a new mode of proceeding where life is at stake, and shewed more curiosity than tenderness for me.

Before my little girl was brought to me, I observed, as her royal highness stood holding it, that Mrs. Fitzgerald, the Nurse, and herself, were all intent, and speaking together, as if there was something peculiar in its appearance; the circumstance alarmed me, fearing it was born with some defect, and I asked eagerly to see it, and if all was right. The Princess upon this brought it to me, and said it was a remarkable large fine child, and they were only looking at a mark it had upon its left breast, certainly a very large one, and a little on its eyes, but it would go off.(Y.) I recollected that, although I never, when in a pregnant state, was subject to whims or longing, as thinking it very troublesome and foolish, yet I felt obliged, in this instance, to believe the old received opinion to be correct; for it happened, that during my visit at Montague-house, in March, I was one Sunday morning very much incommoded by pains in my chest and stomach, and her royal highness made Mrs. Sander give me some warm peppermint-water; there was raspberry-ice in the desert the same day, and I had just begun to eat mine, when the Princess looked at me and said, "My dear Lady Douglas, you have forgotten the pain you were

in this morning :" and, turning to her page, ordered him to take away my plate.

Mr. Cole, the page, removed it, and I can never describe my disappointment. I was almost inclined to remonstrate, although there was a large party of strangers, and I did express a desire to retain it, but the Princess would not allow of it: and as she had appointed herself to the sole management of me, I was obliged to be quiet: my uneasiness, however, became extreme, and forgetting every thing but the ice in question, I asked a Mr. Hamer, who sat next to me, to be so good as to ask for some ice, and, by dint of asking him to do so, I at length induced him, and at last he asked Lady Townsend for some more ice. I immediately took my spoon, and stooping a little, so that the flowers upon the plateau concealed me in part from the Princess, eat all Mr. Hamer's ice, while he looked on laughing, and put his plate a little nearer to me that it might not look so odd. The following day, I eat eight glasses of raspberry ice at once, and was very well after it; and from that time sought it every where, and eat of it voraciously; and I cannot help attributing the marks of my little girl to the circumstance. Her royal highness then kissed me, begged me to send for her whenever I liked, and she would come; desired I might have plenty of flannel about me, of which she had sent me some by Mrs. Fitzgerald, and then went home to

dinner. I know not what she said or did among her party at home, but Miss Cholmondely often said she should never forget the Princess on that day. All the month of August the Princess visited me daily; in one of these visits, after she had sent Mrs. Fitzgerald away, she drew her chair close to the bed, and said, "I am delighted to see how well and easily you have got through this affair; I, who am not the least nervous, shall make nothing at all of it. When you hear of my having taken children in baskets from poor people, take no notice; that is the way I mean to manage: I shall take any that offer, and the one I have will be presented in the same way, which, as I have taken others, will never be thought any thing about." I asked her how she would ever get it out of the house? but she said, "Oh, very easily." I said it was a perilous business; I would go abroad if I were her; but she laughed at my fears, and said she had no doubt but of managing it all very well. I was very glad she did not ask me to assist her, for I was determined in my own mind never to do so, and she never did make any request of me, for which I was very thankful. I put the question to her, Who she would get to deliver her? but she did not answer for a minute, and then said, I shall get a person over; I'll manage it, but never ask me about it; Sander was a good creature, and being immediately about her person and sleeping near her room, must be told; but

Miss Ghaunt must be sent to Germany, and the third maid, a young girl, kept out of the way as well as they could. I suggested, I was afraid her appearance at St. James's could not fail to be observed, and she would have to encounter all the royal family. Her reply was, that she knew how to manage her dress, and by continually increasing large cushions behind, no one would observe, and fortunately birth-days were over, until she should have got rid of her appearance. In this manner passed all the time of my confinement, at the end of which she sent Mrs. Fitzgerald to the church, and when I went to pay my duty to her royal highness, after I went abroad again, she told me, whenever I was quite stout, she would have the child christened, that she meant to stand in person, and I must find another godmother; sir Sidney Smith would be the godfather. I named the Duchess of Athol, as a very able woman, of suitable rank, and said, that as there had been a long friendship betwixt sir John's family and the Athol family, I knew it would be very agreeable to him. Finding they were gone to Scotland, we wrote to ask her Grace; and she wrote word she would stand godmother with great pleasure, and enclosed ten guineas for the nurse. The Princess invited sir Sidney Smith, and Mr. and Mr. Spencer Smith, and Baron Herbert, and sir John Douglas, to dine with her. Miss Cholmondely and the two Fitzgeralds were with her roy-

al highness, and in the evening they all came; I staid at home to receive her. The Clergyman from Lewisham christened the child; the Princess named it Caroline Sidney. As soon as he was gone, (which was shortly after the ceremony was over,) the Princess sat down upon the carpet—a thing she was very fond of doing, in preference to sitting upon the chairs, saying, it was the pleasantest lively affair altogether she had ever known: she chose to sit upon the carpet the whole of the evening, while *we* all sat upon the chairs. Her royal highness was dressed in the lace which, I think, she wore at Frogmore fête; pearl necklace, bracelets, and arm-bands, a pearl bandeau round her head, and a long lace veil. When supper was announced, her royal highness went in and took the head of the table, and eat an amazing supper of chicken and potted lamprey, which she would have served to her on the same plate, and eat them together. (Z.) After supper, she called the attention of the party to my good looks, saying, I was as lively and as *espiègle* as ever; said, that I had such sharp eyes, I found her out in every thing, adding, "Oh! she found me out one day in such a thing, when I was at luncheon, and gave me a look which was so expressive that I was sure she knew."

This speech, which passed between herself and me, was algebra to the party. I did not know what to do, but I saw the secret cost her dear to keep, and she was ready to

betray it to any one she met, by the strange things she said and did; I laughed and said, if my eyes have been too observing I am sorry, I never intended them to be; I cannot be quite so polite as to say, "if my sight offends I will put it out," because I think with Sheridan, that the prejudice is strongly in favour of two; but depend upon it, at all future luncheons, I will do nothing but eat. (A. A.) She was in great spirits, staid until two o'clock in the morning, and then, attended by Miss Cholmondeley, and the Fitzgeralds, went home. Her royal highness's civilities continued; she desired me constantly to bring my children to Montague-house, and also the infant; and when I would have retired to suckle it, she would not suffer me, but commanded me to do it in the drawing-room where she was; and she came with her ladies visiting me both mornings and evenings, and nursing little Caroline for hours together. I saw now the Princess had told Mrs. Sander, who I believe was a very quiet good kind of woman, and her countenance was full of concern and anxiety. She appeared desirous of speaking to me, and was unusually obsequious: but the Princess always watched us both close; if Sander came into a room, and I went towards her, the Princess came close or sent one or another away, so that I could never speak to her. The Princess had now quarrelled with sir Sidney Smith, to whom she had been so partial, and to every part of whose fami-

ly she had been so kind, telling us constantly that she liked them all, because old Mr. Smith had saved the Duke of Brunswick's life. (B. B.) As Sir John was Sir Sidney's friend, she therefore was shy of us all, and we saw little of her—but on the 30th of October, I went to call upon her before I left Blackheath, and met her royal highness just returned from church, walking before her own house with Mrs. Fitzgerald and her daughter, dressed in a long Spanish velvet cloak and an enormous muff, but which together could not conceal the state she was in, for I saw directly she was very near her time, and think I must have seen it if I had not known her situation. She appeared morose, and talked a little but did not ask us to go in, and after taking a few turns returned home. In about a fortnight, we received a note, the Princess requesting neither sir John or I to go to Montague-house, as her servants were afraid some of the children she had taken had the measles, and, if any infection remained about the house, we might carry it to our child. We wrote a note expressive of our thanks for her obliging precautions, and that we would not go to Montague-house, until we had the honor of receiving her royal highness's commands. The Princess never sent for us, and when I left my card before I went to pass Christmas in Gloucestershire, I was not admitted; so that *I never saw her after the 13th* of*

* 30th.

October; but I heard the report of her having adopted an infant, and Miss Fitzgerald told me as she rode past my house, but would not come in, *for fear she should bring the measles.* Upon my return to Blackheath in January, I called to pay my duty. I found her packing a small black box, and an infant sleeping on a sofa, with a piece of scarlet cloth thrown over it. She appeared confused, and hesitated whether she should be rude or kind, (C.C.) but recovering herself, chose to be the latter; said, she was happy to see me, and then taking me by the hand, led me to the sofa, and uncovering the child, said, "Here is the little boy, I had him two days after I saw you last; is not it a nice little child? the upper part of his face is very fine." She was going to have said more, when Mrs. Fitzgerald opened the door and came in. The Princess consulted what I had better have, what would be good for me. I declined any thing, but she insisted upon it I should have some soup, and said, "my dear Fitzgerald, pray go out and order some nice brown soup to be brought here for Lady Douglas." I saw from this the Princess wished to have spoken to me more fully, and Mrs. Fitzgerald saw it likewise, for instead of obeying, she rung the bell for the soup, and then sat down to tell me the whole fable of the child having been brought by a poor woman from Deptford, whose husband had left her; that Mr. Stikeman, the page, had the honour of bringing

it in, that it was a poor little ill-looking thing when first brought, but now, with such great care, was growing very pretty, and that as her royal highness was so good, and had taken the twins (whose father would not let them remain) and taken this, all the poor people would be bringing children. The Princess now took the child up, and I was entertained the whole morning by seeing it fed, and *every service of every kind performed for it by Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales.* Mrs. Fitzgerald aired the napkins, and *the Princess put them on;* and from this time the drawing-rooms at Montague-house were literally in the stile of a common nursery. The tables were covered with spoons, plates, feeding-boats, and clothes; round the fire were napkins hung to air; and the *marble hearths were strewed with napkins taken from the child;* for, very extraordinary to relate, *this* was a part of the ceremony *her royal highness was particularly tenacious of always performing herself,* let the company be who they might. At first the child slept with her, she told me, but it made her nervous, and therefore a nurse was hired to assist in taking charge of it, and for him to sleep with. The Princess said one day to me as she was nursing him, he had a little milk for two or three days, but it did not do, so we bring him up by hand with all kind of nourishing things, and you see how well he thrives; so that I really always supposed she had attempted to suckle it.

Another time she showed me his hand, which has a pink mark upon it, and said, it was very singular *both our children* should be marked, and she thought *her child's* came from having some wine thrown on her hand, for she did not look much at little Caroline's mark. The Princess now adopted a new mode of inviting us to see her. She would either invite Sir John or I, but never both together as formerly. I concluded from *this*, that as she found it difficult to keep *even her own secret*, she could ill imagine I had been able *to keep hers*, and therefore under the impression that by *that time* I must have told Sir John, did not like to meet both our eyes; and if she saw Sir John without me, could better judge by his looks and manner whether I had divulged or not. I conclude she was at length satisfied I had not; for we were one morning both invited again, in the former manner, to a breakfast, and as it was a very curious arranged party, I will put down the names; for, to the person who is to peruse this detail, it will confirm the idea, that her royal highness cannot always know correctly what she is about. When we entered, the Princess was sitting on the sofa, elegantly dressed in white and silver drapery, which covered her head and fell all over her person, and she had her little boy upon her knee elegantly dressed likewise. The guests were, Her Royal Highness Princess Charlotte of Wales, with Miss Hunt her Governess, Captain

Manby of the Navy, Mr. Spencer Smith, the Fitzgeralds, and ourselves. She got up and nursed the child, and carrying it to Sir John, said, "here, Sir John, this is the Deptford boy, I suppose you have heard I have taken a little child." Sir John only said, yes, he had, and it seemed a fine baby. She seemed pleased and satisfied that I had not told him, and then sat down to table, putting a chair for Princess Charlotte on her right hand, taking me by the hand and putting me on her left hand, told Captain Manby to sit at the top, and Mr. Spencer Smith at the bottom, and Sir John and the Fitzgeralds faced us. Princess Charlotte had a plain dinner prepared for her in another room, according to custom, and came in when our desert was placed, when we all sat down again as we were sitting, except Miss Hunt, who was never ordered to sit, but stood a few yards from Princess Charlotte. About five o'clock, her royal highness rose from table, the little boy was brought in again, Princess Charlotte played with it, and the Princess of Wales wished all of us a good morning, and we broke up, totally at a loss to conceive what amusement it could be to collect us together. This breakfast was a kind of *finale.* We had very little intercourse. Her royal highness would walk past our house, for the express purpose of shewing she did not mean to come in, and when we did see her she always abused Sir Sidney Smith. Often

said, she wondered I liked to live in such a dull place as Blackheath, and, in short, gave us hints we could not misunderstand, that she wanted us away. At this time, sir John received a letter from his division, expressive of the General's wish, that he would go to Plymouth, and therefore, (without an Admiralty Order) he determined to go, to emancipate ourselves from the Princess of Wales, and as soon as we could dispose of the furniture, I followed him, leaving the house empty which was ours; three months after, I quitted it. The day sir John was to set off, the Princess walked to our house, and though his trunks were in the room, and he was occupied, would have him sit down and talk to her; *overpowering* him and myself *now* with kindness, and said, she could eat something. She did so, staid four hours in the house, and at parting, took sir John by both hands, wished him every good wish, and begged him always to recollect how happy she should be to see him again, and that she would be *very kind to me during his absence;* however, after he was gone, she never came near me, or offered me any kind of civility whatsoever.

When I was on the eve of departure, I called upon her and took her god-daughter and my other little girl with me. She was almost uncivil, and paid little or no attention if I spoke. I said the children were with me, but she did not answer, and after spending four or five hours

very unpleasantly, suffering all the unpleasant feelings of being where I had been courted and idolized, I begged permission at last to go away. When I went out, to my surprise, I found the children had been kept in the passage, near the front door, with the door open to Blackheath, in a December day, with four opposite doors opened and shut upon them, instead of being taken to the housekeeper's room, as they always had been. My maid had at length begged the footman to go to a fire, as the children cried dreadfully, and were very cold. I understand the man was a footman of the name of Gaskin, I think, and his answer was, if the children are cold, you can put them back into the carriage, and warm them. I took them home immediately, and was inclined to return and ask why they had been thus all of a sudden treated with this brutality and impertinence, and which was doubly cruel in sir John's absence; but I deferred going until I meant to take my final leave, which I did on the following Sunday. Doctor Burnaby was standing in the hall with every thing prepared for the Princess to receive the sacrament. I was ushered through notwithstanding, and the footmen seemed to go to and fro as much at their ease, as if no such thing was preparing. She was standing in the drawing-room, and received me with Mrs. Lisle and Mrs. Fitzgerald. I said I should have been gone before, had it been in my power, and in compliance

with her commands, had come to take my leave. She did not ask me to sit down, but said—God bless you: good bye. I then said, I was much concerned I had brought my little girls a few days past, and that I should never have done so, but from her royal highness's repeated desire. She said, she was sorry; and asked, who used them so? I told her, one of her livery servants, and Sir John would not like to hear it. Her royal highness said, stop a moment; flew past me through the hall where Doctor Burnaby stood waiting for her, up to her own room, and returned with a white-paper box, pushing it into my hand—God bless you, my dear Lady Douglas. I said, I wished to decline taking any thing, that my object in coming there was to offer her my duty, and tell her how ill my children had been used. I could not conceive how any footman could use the freedom of treating sir John's children so, unless he had been desired. (C.C.C.) She only answered, "Oh! no, indeed: good bye." I attempted to put the box into her hands, saying I had rather not have it; but she dropped her hands and turned away. I therefore wished Mrs. Lisle and Mrs. Fitzgerald good morning and went away. Doctor Burnaby spoke to me as I passed him, and, looking back, I saw her royal highness's head; she was looking out after me to see if she had fairly got rid of me, and laughing immoderately at Dr. Burnaby in his gown. I quitted her

house resolved never to re-enter it but for form-sake, and wrote her word, that as I had long been treated rudely and my children whom she courted to her house, were now insulted there, I felt a dislike to accepting a present thrown at me, at it were, under such unpleasant circumstances; that I had not untied the box, and requested she would permit me to return it; and that as I was an English gentlewoman, and defied her to say she had ever seen a single impropriety in my conduct, I would never suffer myself to be ill used without a clear explanation. The Princess wrote back a most haughty imperious reply, desiring me to keep the box, stiled herself Princess of Wales, almost every line, and insulted me to such a degree, that I returned an answer insisting upon her explaining herself. (D. D.) This she returned me unopened, saying, she would not open my second letter, and had therefore sent it to me to put in the fire, and that she was ready to put the matter in oblivion, as she desired me to do, wished me and my dear little children well, and should at all times be glad to see her former neighbour. I did as she desired, and went away at Christmas without ever seeing or hearing more of her royal highness, and found in the paper box a gold necklace, with a medallion suspended from it.

Thus ended my intercourse, for the present, with the Princess of Wales, and the year 1803.

When we resided in Devonshire, seeing by the papers that her royal highness was ill, we sent a note of inquiry to the lady in waiting, which was answered very politely, and even in a friendly manner, by her royal highness's orders. Upon the arrival of the Duke of Sussex from abroad, sir John returned to town to attend him, and when we drove to Blackheath to see our friends, I left my card for her royal highness, who was visiting Mr. Canning; the moment she returned home she commanded Mrs. Vernon to send me word never to repeat my visits to Blackheath. I gave sir John the note, and must confess, accustomed as I had been to her haughty overbearing caprice, yet this exceeded my belief of what she was capable of, being so inconsistent with her two last letters; but the fact was, she thought we were gone above 200 miles from her, and should be there for many years, and she never calculated upon the return of his royal highness the Duke of Sussex, having very often told me his royal highness would never live in England, in his majesty's lifetime; that she was certain of that, and had reasons for knowing it; and sir John would never have him here.(E.E.) I suppose she had taken this into her head, because she wished it; and, therefore, the return of his royal highness was a mortal death-blow to all her hopes on this score; and when she found that his royal highness was not only returned, but that sir John was in attendance, and that

his royal highness was at Carlton-house, where sir John might see and have the honour of being made known to the Prince of Wales, her *fear* and *rage* got the better of every prudent consideration, and she commanded Mrs. Vernon to dismiss me as I have mentioned. Had the Princess of Wales written to me herself, and told me, in a civil manner, that she would thank me to keep away, I should have acquainted her, that I wished to do so, and had only called for the sake of appearances, and there the matter would have ended; unless I had ever been called upon (as I am now) by his Majesty, or the heir apparent. *In that case,* as in this, I should have made it my sacred duty to have answered, as upon my oath: but the circumstance of being driven out of her house by the hands of the lady in waiting, as if I had deserved it, and as if I were a culprit, was wounding one with a poisoned arrow, which left the wound to fester after it had torn and stabbed me; it was a refinement in insult, for the Princess had always been in the habit of writing to me *herself,* and had commanded me never to hold intercourse with her through her ladies, but *always* directly to *herself;* and so particular were her directions and permission upon this head, that she told me never to put my letters under cover, but always direct them to herself.(FF.) I felt so miserable, that Mrs. Vernon, to whom I was known, and for whom sir John and myself had an esteem, should think ill of me,

and I therefore wrote to the Princess, saying, " From the moment she judged proper to come into my family, I always conducted myself to her royal highness with the respect her high station demanded; and that when she forced her secrets upon me, I had (whatsoever my sentiments were) kept them most honourably for her, never yet having told sir John, although I gave him my full confidence in all other things; nor had I even, under my present aggravation, imparted it, or meant:—that after such generous conduct on my part, I was at a loss to conceive what she proposed to *herself* by persecuting me; that I was afflicted at being so placed in the opinion of a good woman, like Mrs. Vernon, and who was free to say what she pleased upon the subject *every where;* that it was half as bad to be *thought* ill of as to deserve it; and that I would wait upon Mrs. Vernon, and detail to her a circumstantial account of every thing which had occurred since I had known her royal highness; and I would acquaint my husband and family with the same, and leave them, and the circle of my friends, to judge betwixt her royal highness and myself; that I would not lie under an imputation of having done wrong; and I took my leave of her royal highness *for ever,* only first regretting I had ever known her, and thankful to be emancipated from Montague-house, and that she owed it to me to have,

at least dismissed me in a civil manner, by her *own hands.*

This letter her royal highness returned unopened; but from its appearance, I had strong reason to believe she had read it. I was resolved, however, if she had not, she should be taught better, as she might not treat any other person so ill as she had me, and my mind was bent upon speaking to Mrs. Vernon. I was nearly certain, if I wrote to Mrs. Vernon, the Princess would make her send my letter back, and therefore I wrote Mrs. Fitzgerald nearly a copy of what I sent her royal highness, and called upon *her,* as she had always been present, to say, if she ever saw any thing in my behaviour to justify any rudeness towards me; that I was precisely what the Princess found me, when the Princess walked up *to her knees in snow to seek my acquaintance,* and precisely *the same individual* whom she had thought worthy of the strongest proofs of her friendship, and whose lying-in she had attended in so particular a manner, and had thought worthy of shedding tears over; that her royal highness had thought proper to confide in me a secret of very *serious importance to* herself; and I would not, after acting in the most honourable manner to *her,* be dismissed by a lady in waiting; and I meant to be at Montague-house, and have a satisfactory conversation with Mrs. Vernon; and therefore she would be so good as acquaint her royal highness with the contents

of my letter, or lay it before her royal highness. (G. G.) Mrs. Fitzgerald sent back a confused note, saying, she could not shew the Princess my letter, unless she was called upon; and when she opened it her disappointment was great, for she expected to have found respectful inquiries after her royal highness's finger (which was hurt when she went to see Mr. Canning), and that I might make my mind easy, as ladies in waiting never repeated any thing; and she was astonished I had thrown out such a hint. (G.G.G.) A day or two after a note was sent to Sir John, as if nothing had happened, requesting him to go to Montague-house. The servant who brought it, drove Mrs. Vernon from Blackheath home to her own house in town, and I have no doubt it will be found (if inquiry is made) that Mrs. Vernon was put prematurely out of her waiting, lest I should explain with her. Sir John obeyed her royal highness's summons, and she received him in the most gracious pleasant manner, taking as much pains to please and flatter him *now* as she had formerly done by me, and began a conversation with him relating to a General Innes, of the Marines, whom the Admiralty thought proper, with many others, to put upon the retired list; she expressed an ardent desire to get that officer reinstated, and consulted Sir John, as belonging to the same corps, how she could accomplish such an undertaking. Sir John listened to her attentively, and made her short and very

polite answers, acquainting her no such thing was ever done. She then said she must speak to Lord Melville about it, as it was a hard case. The luncheon was then announced, and she ordered sir John to attend herself and the ladies. Sir John found Mrs. Vernon was sent off, and a lady was there whom he did not know, but thought was lady Carnarvon. When they were all seated sir John remained on his legs, and she looked anxiously on him, and said, " My dear sir John, sit down and eat." He bowed with distant respect, and said he could not eat; that he was desirous of returning to town, and if her royal highness had no further business with him he would beg leave to go. The Princess looked quite disconcerted, and said, " what not eat any thing, not sit down: pray take a glass of wine then." He bowed again as before and repeated that he could neither eat nor drink. " Well then," she said, " come again soon, my dear sir John; always glad to see you." Sir John made no reply, bowed and left the room. I now received, by the twopenny post, a long anonymous letter, written by this restless mischievous person, the Princess of Wales, in which, in language, which any one who had ever heard her speak, would have known to be hers, she called me all kind of names, impudent, *silly, wretched, ungrateful,* and illiteral (meaning illiterate), she tells me to take *that,* and it will mend my *ill-temper,* &c. &c. &c. and says, she is a person

high in this government, and has often an opportunity of *freely with His Majesty, and she thinks my conduct authorises her to tell him *off*, and that *she* is my only true and *integer friend*. Such is the spirit of this foreigner, which would have disgraced a house-maid to have written, and it encloses a fabricated anonymous letter, which she pretends to have received, and upon which she built her doubts and disapprobation of me, as it advises her not to trust me, for that I am indiscreet, and tell every body that the child she took from Deptford was her own. The whole construction of both these epistles, from beginning to end, are evidently that of a foreigner, and a very ignorant one, and the vulgarity of it is altogether quite shocking. In one part she exclaims that she did not think that I should have had the *impudence* to come *on her door* again, and tells me 'tis for my being *indiscreet and not having allowed her to call me a liar*, that she treats me *thus*, and that I would do well to remember the story of *Henry the Eighth's Queen and Lady Douglas*. I was instantly satisfied it was from her royal highness the Princess of Wales, and that Mrs. Fitzgerald had shewn her my letter, and this was the answer to it. I immediately carried it to sir John Douglas, who said he was sure it came from the Princess, and he shewed it to sir Sidney

* So in the authenticated copy; some words seem omitted.

Smith, who said, every word and expression in it were those which the Princess of Wales constantly used. (H.H.) Sir John desired me now to give him a full explanation of what her royal highness the Princess of Wales had confided to me, and whether I had ever mentioned it. I gave him my solemn word of honour it had never passed my lips, and I was only now going to utter it at his positive desire. (I. I.)

That her royal highness the Princess of Wales told me she was with child, and that it came to life at Lady Willoughby's, that if she was discovered she would give the Prince of Wales the credit, for she slept at Carlton-house twice the year she was pregnant! that she often spoke of her situation, compared herself and me to Mary and Elizabeth, and told me, when she shewed me the child, that it was the little boy she had two days after I last saw her, that was the 30th of October; therefore her son was born upon the 1st of November; and I took a retrospect view of things, after I knew the day of his birth, and found her royal highness must have gone down stairs and dined with all the Chancellors about the 4th day after she was delivered, with the intention, if discovered, of having them all to say they dined with her in perfect health so early in November, that it could not be. Sir John recollected all her whims, and went over her whole conduct, and he firmly believes her to be *the mother of the reputed Dept-*

ford child. (K.K.) I then acquainted him of the pains she had taken to estrange my mind and affections from him, and he saw her pursuit of now changing sides, and endeavouring to estrange him from me, lest, if we lived in a happy state of confidence, I might make known her situation to him: and we agreed, that as we had no means of communicating at present with his Majesty, or the heir apparent, we must wait patiently until called upon to bring forward her conduct, as there seemed little doubt we should one day be. Finding that sir John Douglas did not choose to visit where his wife was discarded and hurt in the estimation of her acquaintance, her fury became so unbounded that she sought what she could do most atrocious, wicked, and inhuman; she reached her* it would seem, and the result was, she made two drawings with a pen and ink, and sent them to us by the twopenny post, representing me as having disgraced myself with his old friend sir Sidney Smith. They are of the most indecent nature, drawn with her own hand, and words upon them in her own hand-writing.(L.L.) Sir John, sir Sidney, and myself, can all swear point blank, without a moment's hesitation; and if her royal highness is a subject and amenable to the laws of this country (and I conceive her to be so,) she ought to be tried and judged by those laws for

* A blank in the authenticated copy.

doing thus, to throw firebrands into the bosom of a quiet family.

My husband, with that cool good sense which has ever marked his character, and with a belief in my innocence, which nothing but facts can stagger (for it is founded upon my having been faithful to him nine years before we were married, and seven years since), as well as his long acquaintance with sir Sidney Smith's character and disposition, and having seen the Princess of Wales's loose and vicious character, put the letters in his pocket, and went instantly to sir Sidney Smith. Sir Sidney was as much astonished as we had been. Sir John then told him, he put the question to him, and expected an answer such as an officer and gentleman ought to give to his friend; sir Sidney Smith gave sir John his hand, as his old friend and companion, and assured him, in the most solemn manner, as an officer and gentleman, that the whole was the most audacious and wicked calumny; and he would swear to its being the hand-writing of the Princess of Wales; and that he believed Lady Douglas to be the same virtuous domestic woman he thought her, when sir John first made him known to her. Sir Sidney added, "I never said a word to your wife, but what you might have heard; and had I been so base as to attempt any thing of the kind under your roof, I should deserve for you to shoot me like a mad dog. I am ready to go with Lady

Douglas and yourself, and let us ask her what she means by it; confront her." Accordingly Sir John wrote a note to the lady in waiting, which was to this effect; "sir John and Lady Douglas, and sir Sidney Smith, present their compliments to the lady in waiting, and request she will have the goodness to say to her royal highness the Princess of Wales, that they are desirous of having an audience of her royal highness immediately." We received no answer to this note, but in a few days, an answer was sent to sir Sidney Smith, stating, that her royal highness the Princess of Wales was much indisposed and could not see any one at present. This was directed to sir Sidney Smith, at our house, although he did not live there. This was an acknowledgement of her guilt: she could not face us; it was satisfactory to us all, for it said—I am the author, let me off; but to make one's satisfaction upon this the more perfect, and to warn her of the danger she run of discovery, when she did such flagrant things, I wrote the under-written note and put it into the Post-office, directed to herself.

"MADAM,

"I received your former anonymous letter safe; also, your two last, with drawings.

I am, Madam,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLOTTE DOUGLAS."

It appears evident that her royal highness received this safe, and felt how she had committed herself, for, instead of returning it in the old style, she sent for his royal highness the Duke of Kent, and requested him to send for sir Sidney, and by the post sir Sidney received an anonymous letter, saying, the writer of that wished for no *civil dissensions*, and that there seldom was a difference where, if the parties wished it, they could not arrange matters. Sir Sidney Smith brought this curious letter to shew sir John, and we were all satisfied it was from her royal highness, who, thinking sir Sidney and sir John might, by this time, be cutting each other's throats, sent very graciously to stop them; in short, she called them *civil dissensions*. His royal highness the Duke of Kent, being employed to negotiate, sent for sir Sidney Smith, and acquainted him, that he was desired by her royal highness to say, that she would see sir Sidney Smith in the course of a few days, provided, when he came to her, he avoided all disagreeable discussions whatsoever. His royal highness the Duke of Kent then sought from sir Sidney an explanation of the matter: sir Sidney Smith then gave the Duke of Kent a full detail of circumstances, and ended by saying, "We all could, and would, swear the drawings and words contained in those covers were written by the Princess of Wales; for, as if she were fully to convict herself, she had sealed one of the covers with the identical

seal she had used upon the cover, when she summoned sir John to luncheon at Montague-house." His royal highness the Duke of Kent, finding what a scrape she had entangled herself in, exclaimed ; " Abominable! foolish, to be sure; but sir Sidney Smith, as this matter, if it makes a noise, may distress his Majesty, and be injurious to his health, I wish sir John and Lady Douglas would (at least for the present) try to forget it; and if my making them a visit would be agreeable, and soothe their minds, I will go with all my heart, though I am not yet acquainted with them, and I will speak fully to the Princess of Wales, and point out to her the danger of doing such things; but, at all events, it would be very injurious to his Majesty's health, if it came to his ears just now." Sir Sidney Smith came from his royal highness the Duke of Kent to us, and delivered his royal highness's message. Sir John declined all negociation: but told sir Sidney Smith, that he was empowered to say to the Duke of Kent from him, that of whatsoever extent he might * his injuries, and however anxious he might be to seek justice, yet when he received such an intimation from one of the royal family, he would certainly pause before he took any of those measures he meant to take; and if that was the case, and his royal highness the

* So in the authenticated copy.

Duke of Kent was desirous of his being quiet, lest his Majesty's health or peace might be disturbed by it, his duty and his attachment to his Sovereign were so sincere, that he would bury (for the present) his private calamity, for the sake of his Majesty's repose and the public good; but he begged to be clearly understood, that he did not mean to bind himself hereafter, but reserve to himself a full right of exposing the Princess of Wales, when he judged it might be done with the greatest effect, and when it was not likely to disturb the repose of this country.(M.M.)

Sir Sidney Smith told us that he had delivered sir John's message, *verbatim,* to the Duke of Kent; and a short time afterwards, his royal highness commanded Sir John and sir Sidney to dine with him at Kensington Palace; but the Duke of Kent did not speak to sir John upon the subject, and the matter rested there, and would have slept for a time, had not the Princess of Wales recommenced a fresh torrent of outrage against sir John; and had he not discovered, that she was attempting to undermine his and Lady Douglas's character. Sir John, therefore, was compelled to communicate his situation to his royal highness the Duke of Sussex, in order that he might acquaint the royal family of the manner the Princess of Wales was proceeding in, and to claim his Majesty's and the heir apparent's protection. His royal highness the Duke of Sussex, with that goodness and

consideration sir John expected from him, has informed his royal highness the Prince of Wales, who sent sir John word, that " He desired to have a full detail of all that passed during their acquaintance with her royal highness the Princess of Wales, and how they became known to her, it appearing to the heir apparent, from the representation of his royal highness the duke of Sussex, that his Majesty's dearest interests, and those of this country, were very deeply involved in the question; his royal highness the Prince of Wales has commanded them to be very circumstantial in their detail respecting all they may know relative to the child the Princess of Wales affected to adopt. Sir John and Lady Douglas repeat, that, being so called upon, they feel it their duty to detail what they know, for the information of his Majesty and the Prince of Wales, and they have so done, as upon oath, after having very seriously considered the matter, and are ready to authenticate whatever they have said, if it should be required, for his Majesty's further information. I have drawn up this detail in the best manner I could; and fear, from my never having before attempted a thing of the kind, it will be full of errors, and being much fatigued from writing of it, from the original, in eight and forty hours; of the facts contained therein, I believe they are correct; I am ready to assert, in the most solemn manner, that I know them all to be true.

CHARLOTTE DOUGLAS.

COMMENTARIES

ON THE PRECEDING

NARRATIVE.

(A.) Page 50. It ought not to be here a question, whether this assertion be true or false. Notwithstanding all that can be advanced by interest or partiality, the public will exercise a discretionary opinion, that is to say, they will argue on the *probability* or *improbability* of certain parts of the narrative, from the apparent consistency of the whole. One question however may be asked; did the Princess, or did she not, sleep two nights at Carlton-house? The commencing sentences of the Narrative

show, that the demand made upon Lady D. for information, was of a nature not to be evaded. What she says about her sense of duty, must be acknowledged to be moral, sensible, and proper.

(B.) Page 50. Are not these very creditable and justifiable reasons for her interference? Any person so educated and connected, must have felt a similar inclination to make the exposure; but few would have had sufficient resolution to place themselves in a condition for encountering those dangers and that obloquy, which might have been anticipated as the result of the investigation, provided that it should terminate in the way it has done. It could have required no penetration on the part of Lady Douglas to foresee that she would inevitably become an object of general indignation and injustice, as long as any part of her exposition were not implicitly believed. On the other hand, if it happened (as in fact it did) that her *ipsa dixit* had not been deemed sufficient evidence to authorise any *public* proceedings, she would nevertheless have been regarded by the public as a malignant calumniator, and the prejudice would even have been stronger against her, from the very circumstance of her details having *apparently* received no credence. Even the *pretended friends* of the Princess of Wales would not have failed to seize on this circumstance to blast the unfortunate Lady's reputation and

destroy her peace. We therefore repeat and insist, that an evident proof of fortitude, on the part of Lady Douglas, is, her making such a statement. Besides, her assertion, that she entered upon these particulars by desire of the Heir Apparent, (who could not feel otherwise than deeply interested in acquiring a just knowledge of the facts,) is sufficient to inspire the opinion that she was actuated by no other motive in this exposure, than her loyalty, or attachment to the Royal Family, to whom it appears her husband was devoted, not only as a public servant, but from motives of grateful attachment for private patronage. This person, however, and his lady, are by no means *solitary* instances of the instability of royal friendships. There is, perhaps, nothing more injurious to individual prosperity, than zealous attachment to the great from *principle* alone; as such earnest attachments scarcely ever meet with other recompense than apathy, neglect, and callous ingratitude, and are therefore at best but a thankless waste of talents and integrity.

(C.) Page 52, line 10 from the bottom. Nothing can be more likely to be facts than the statements in the preceding passages. It was extremely probable that sir Sidney Smith was the informant. He is an enthusiastic sort of character; though we believe, that, *sai-*

lor-like, his virtues may be assimilated with those of the *African negroes*, which, according to the investigations of President Jefferson, of America, lie more in the *heart* than the *head!* Reverting however to the sentence on which this note depends, who knows that sir Sidney's eulogies on the *beauty* and accomplishments of Lady Douglas may not have been the first *excitations* of that *female curiosity* which led to the intercourse between her and the Princess of Wales! This said female curiosity is a deuce of a thing! Ever since the days of Lot, and Lord knows how long before, it has occasioned innumerable misfortunes in the world, both to men and women; and, indeed, we could fill a volume in reciting the ludicrous as well as serious consequences which have resulted from its exercise. But all the ladies must agree in opinion, that curiosity is a very amiable recommendation in a woman; it is only insupportable in a husband! A little touch of it must, we think, have operated upon that buxom demirep, Mary Wilson, who told Fanny Lloyd, that one day she saw something going forwards, at Montague-house, that "harrowed up her soul," and made "each *particular hair* to stand on end, like quills upon the fretful porcupine!"* As to sir Sidney, he is *a hero*, alike *victorious* in the fields

* See Edwards's Edition of the Book, p. 104.

of Mars and Venus; and his well-known *prowess*, like that of Mark Antony and Cæsar, cannot but be a *carte-blanche* of introduction to the notice of the softer sex! If report say true, it is not *only* at Montague-house that this fortunate admiral has *made a figure*. The little tyrant, Cupid, is reported to have tipped the point of his *dirk* with that subtle, insinuating poison, which, when aided by the imposing auxiliaries of an *uniform*, and fame for *deeds of arms*, does so much mischief in the world! Indeed, *fame* and *externals* will at any time impart to a brawny, broad-shouldered waggoner, the graces of an Adonis, and level all distinctions to one common rank, with more effect than all the *patriotism* on earth! But it is known that the Knight of Jerusalem is *equi-distant* in pretensions, between the two extreme characters which we have coupled by way of contrast. We must, however, say a word or two more concerning this gallant admiral. Most of our readers may recollect, that sometime ago, it was asserted in all the newspapers, that " at an interview with a certain eminent character, he had entered into *such explanations* of the occurrences at Montague-house as were deemed perfectly *satisfactory*, as far as related to *himself*, and that he had, in consequence, the honour of dining with the Personage in question." Indeed, we rather think that, till this opportunity was afforded him, he was *put on the shelf*, (a phrase

well understood by naval men;) and where, by the bye, poor Captain Manby has been, we believe, ever since he left his *furnished cabin!* Now, suppose, that by one of those extraordinary means, which are not to be accounted for, the whole of his *precious table-talk* should be known to those who could, if they should think fit, give it publicity! Would it not be a sort of a *treat,* to enliven the dull routine of insipidity which prevails at the winter card-tables? This and much more certainly is known to those who can go on with the subject as long as they think proper; and afterwards the Devil, or any one else, may furnish the supplement!

(D.) Page 53. This circumstance, trifling as it seems, is nevertheless of great consequence to our illustrations. It shows that the Princess *forced* the intercourse. Her curiosity, as we have already hinted, seems to have been powerfully excited by the unqualified eulogiums of sir Sidney Smith, and this passion was not satiated with a single interview. With the natural and justifiable propensity of the sex, she wished to know more of the female in whose praise the *men* spoke so loudly. She, therefore, not only invites her to her house, but introduces her, as *a chosen associate,* to her *select and noble friends!* This much at least, we are authorised to infer, from the part of the narrative now under consideration.

(E.) Page 54. In this as well as some other parts of the narrative, there certainly does seem something *extremely capricious,* and it might be said, even *fulsome,* on the part of the Princess of Wales. We are certain, that any *English* lady would be disgusted with such nauseating liberties, if such were ever taken with her, by one of her own sex: they remind us of the "*Memoirs of Antonina, Queen of Abo!*" The only palliation which can be offered for such freedoms is the *loose* and perhaps *harmless,* but certainly *indelicate,* customs of the continent! Without any inclination to place implicit confidence in this part of the Narrative, we shall nevertheless here take occasion to say, that whatever may be the prejudice against Lady Douglas on account of the contents of *the whole* of her remarks, there are some parts which bear such evident tokens of *probability,* that sophistry itself would be lost in attempting to enter the mazes of justification!

(F.) Page 54. It is very likely, admitting this not to be totally destitute of truth, that many of the associates of the Princess of Wales, who were then present, must have been struck with this absurd conduct; and it may have become the subject of their subsequent observations. Indeed, if various sinister remarks were not well known to have been current on this very topic, long before the appearance of *the Book,* one might the more

easily suppose it to be altogether a fabrication. But every person connected with the fashionable world, knows such matters to have been the theme of constant conversation in all high associations.

(G.) Page 54. Now, suppose the question of the veracity of Lady Douglas were to be put at issue on the truth or falsehood of this very passage. Could the Duke of Kent not recollect whether any thing so ridiculously gallant did or did not take place? *Suppose the censurable indiscretions of the end of last year should be renewed in the present season,* how easily might recourse be had to such evidence as would rebut the charges of the "*stingers and venomers!*" Certainly the Duke of Kent could either give an unequivocal denial of the occurrence, or he must admit the statement to be literally correct; for it is too brief and pointed to be frittered down or modified.

(H.) Page 55. Enough has already been said (that is, presupposing any veracity in the Narrative) to justify this opinion of Lady Douglas; the term might have been more strong without any violation of propriety.

(I.) Page 57. In the whole of the preceding passages, there is described a degree of kindness on the part of the

Princess towards Lady Douglas which indicates a formation of the strongest partiality. The offer was of that generous and condescending nature which never fails to excite gratitude in the breast of parties so honoured, provided they have any pretensions to decency or sentiment. Could it then be any *trifle,* any insignificant or pitiful *pique,* which could have induced Lady Douglas to *invent* gross and scandalous falsehoods and calumnies? There may be such baseness in the world; but it must appear to us in a "*tangible* shape," before we can give credit to it! Consistency, leaving decency out of the question, is at variance with the supposition that this story is "the mere invention of an enemy." We are, therefore, on the whole, more than ever inclined to believe in the assertion at page 45, respecting the *only motives* that induced Lady D. to make the exposure.

(K.) Page 58. This is really a very strong and bold assertion. It is one of those which have drawn down so much contumely upon the head of the unfortunate author; and we may be certain, that it is either an *infamous libel,* or it must have some *foundation in fact.* All who have been acquainted with that personage must know well enough, whether her general conversation could be at all liable to the construction here put upon it. The concluding inference of Lady Douglas may be deemed *se-*

vere; but, if the previous assertions have the least foundation, then is the conclusion *liberal,* inasmuch as it seeks to find a natural justification for what is morally indefensible!

(L.) Page 59. This is a mere matter of opinion, which the public have no more right to believe than they have to censure the author for asserting it. It has been said, and most truly, that women are no judges of each others' *beauty. Talents,* however, may be estimated by an unerring scale; and such is their attraction, when possessed by females in high or genteel life, that one hour's conversation affords sufficient scope to discover the full extent of them. We should be sorry to believe that Lady Douglas has not here been influenced by some portion of prejudice.

(M.) Page 60. The whole of this story is ludicrous, nay, ridiculous; and its accuracy appears less questionable than several of the other assertions in the Narrative. It would make a good scene in a modern novel.

(N.) Page 60. This and other parts of some sentences, in the Narrative, though marked in italic letters by Lady Douglas, are no farther worthy of notice than because they are *German idioms.* Persons unacquainted with this

fact, may be apt to put an indelicate construction upon the phrase, as it appears in print. We may, however, observe, *en passant*, that foreigners, even when well acquainted with our language, find nothing so difficult as to get rid of these idioms. It is nevertheless evident, that Lady Douglas *has recorded them in a way which she could not have done, unless accustomed to the talk of persons who do not speak English correctly.*

(O.) Page 62. There is certainly nothing *criminal* in this expression of astonishment; for we have lamentable proofs that such things are *always happening.* Alas! many a baneful, slippery, serpent insinuates itself into the Eden of domestic happiness, and gluts upon FORBIDDEN FRUIT: hence, when hospitality is so frequently invaded by the infamy of *false friends*, the finding of *exceptions* in high life is as surprising as it is creditable to those ladies who are less licentious than their neighbours!

(P.) Page 62. This is, indeed, the true philosophy of the German school; and, if the opinion in question were really that of the Personage alluded to, she must be a profound admirer of the works of that school, which would have made dreadful havoc on the foundations of our mo-

rality, if British good sense had not long since consigned them to merited contempt and oblivion.

(Q.) Page 63. There has been by far too much consequence attached to this Letter. Every body who had heard it mentioned before the appearance of the Book, believed it to be a *carte blanche,* for the Princess to *fill up,* in what manner she pleased! We surely need not enlarge upon the fact, that it is nothing of the kind; nor can the most splenetic critic torture it into a document which allows the smallest liberty to the Lady, beyond a conduct of strict propriety. There is no other part of *the Book,* at the publicity of which the illustrious *Letter-writer* has so much reason to be gratified. It does not, to be sure, immortalise him as an *author,* but it vindicates his character from a groundless, though *reputed stain,* to which it had for years been subjected.

(R.) Page 64. Her Royal Highness's subsequent experience must have amply convinced her of what she might here have meant to say. The Addressers, amidst all their fulsome flattery, took care to remind her, that *this* is the only country in which *justice* can be obtained by persons of every rank. We trust the melancholy fate of her illustrious and unfortunate aunt, the late Queen of Den-

mark, was present in her mind's eye, when she paid this feeling tribute to British liberty.

(S.) Page 66. A very natural apprehension of Lady Douglas: though the same question might have been asked by any other female, on hearing so preposterous an exposition.

(T.) Page 67. We cannot admit this inference to be correct. Has Lady Douglas ever known such an instance as she here pre-supposes? We think not. But we have more to say on this subject, which may not be very pleasing to Lady Douglas herself, though it will be one farther proof of our own independence of all parties, or persons, named in this publication. There is a blunt old English proverb, which is here very apposite; it runs thus: "Give even unto *the Devil* his due!" Now we cannot for a moment persuade ourselves that the passages which precede this note have a just foundation. We have, all through this our pamphlet, defended Lady D. on the ground of her having *sworn* to the principal points in this statement; and we repeat, that till proofs of *perjury* be offered, the world is bound to believe her. Still there is something so *unnaturally improbable* in this part of her Narrative, that we would fain persuade ourselves it is altogether a gross misconstruction of certain ideas expressed

in *imperfect English!* But if this liberal supposition were to be contested, how greatly must the character of Lady Douglas sink, through her conduct on the occasion, if not in point of morality, at least in the scale of intellectual firmness. If it were possible that she could have been so grossly insulted, it ought not to have required a moment's hesitation on her part, to resolve to quit, for ever, a mansion, in which so great an outrage had been offered to her sense of modesty and decency! Even if she were a *timid* woman, she might at least have summoned sufficient fortitude to inform her husband of the disgusting particulars; for not even *Royalty*, or any thing that bears its semblance, should ever be suffered to abase the dignity of female *virtue*. If it could be said, that a proper retort and abrupt departure might have been taken as insult, we answer, let it have been so; and it would have been beyond all comparison *inferior* to the insult which, according to her own account, she herself had received. How different was the conduct of PUBLIUS RUTILIUS, as recorded by VALERIUS!—but he, to be sure, was not a *wôman*, but a spirited Roman:—being requested by his Prince and companion to do something inconsistent with the dignity of his character, he sharply refused; on which the Prince asked him what the better he was for his friendship, if he would hesitate at such a trifling proposition as was made to him? Stop, said RUTILIUS, and tell

me what the better *I* am for such a friend as *you,* who would wish me to compromise my morality!—But we see how it was with Lady Douglas; she was, throughout her intercourse at Montague-house, *afraid of giving offence!*

(V.) Page 68. Why has not Lady Douglas published the names of all the persons who were present on such occasions, as witnesses of such disreputable conversation, *if it really did take place,* for here again we cannot persuade ourselves that Lady Douglas has not fallen into some unintentional error. It is very difficult to recollect the particulars of a desultory conversation. We have ourselves heard strange sayings in private, by several persons, who we know were, at the time in question, constant visitors at Montague-house. We could even insert the names of some ten or twelve distinguished characters, who used to amuse themselves and their friends with a series of *delectable* anecdotes! But we are too charitable to draw the eyes of the public upon many *fashionable* persons, whose characters would not receive the smallest benefit from the elucidations which we could throw upon them.

(U.) Page 68. We do not think that Lord Sidmouth has ever, by his conduct as a Minister, merited the abuse or even the satire of any person, although he has met with a tolerable share of both. In his political station, he is

polite and unassuming, and totally divested of that official *sang-froid*, or those cold repulsive manners, which have their origin only in family or national pride, and shallowness of intellect. Has any high personage yet to learn, that talents are not the constant appendage of those who are "born to greatness," and that many a brainless head and callous heart can support the weight of a coronet! We can assure the Princess of Wales, that there are many persons who owe nothing to birth, but who are, nevertheless, qualified for all the duties of *modern Statesmen*, to be found *in places where she has never once thought of looking for them!*

As to the *sham peace*, which was patched up in 1801, every politician knows that it was a mere experiment of the moment, which none of the *state-quacks* of that day expected to be of any advantage to poor Britannia's *Constitution*. But many generations will have reason to lament, that the *Doctor's* attempt to heal the wounds of a bleeding world was not more successful.

To return to the subject of our note, Lord Sidmouth, probably, never heard the *high opinion* which was entertained of him in a certain quarter, till he observed it last March, at the Board of the Privy Council; and on that occasion, we have been told, that the *sedate* assemblage found it impossible to preserve their gravity!

Respecting the whole of the stuff, which fills pages

68 and 69, we do not think that its publicity is of the least consequence whatever, and that it ought not to have excited a moment's chagrin in the breasts of any of the persons who are exposed in it: though it certainly exceeds all the gossiping satires of old-maidism, that ever have been brought forward at the tea-table. Yet we know that it was *this part* of the Book, more than any part, which caused the memorable struggle and artifices to keep the whole *for ever* from the public eye! We, however, regard the observations as equally silly, laughable, and contemptible; and it may be said of them, with nearly as much truth as the remark was made on the works of a noted modern Poet, that they will be remembered by the world *(only)* when those of Shakspeare and others are forgotten!

(U. U.) Page 73. If it should happen that this tract falls into the hands of any person who has a copy of *that particular* BOOK which was printed by order of the late Mr. PERCEVAL, it would be worth while to *turn to it*, and compare this sentence as it stands in EDWARDS's edition, with that in the *original* volume, printed in 1806. It will be recollected that Edwards was the printer of the original Book; and it would really be interesting to know, by *whose authority* or under *what pretence* his edition of 1813 was made to *differ in language*

at that part which is marked (by us) *in italic letters* from the one of 1806? Will Mr. Edwards say that the expression here particularly marked is the same as that in the same place of the *original* Book? This is a question merely between the author of the present work, and the printer of the original Book; and as the public will never know (at least from *us* who could tell them, if we pleased,) what a *material difference* exists in the language of the two editions, more words had better be spared.

But the idea of women quarrelling about female *beauty* is, after all, highly ludicrous, considering that on *this*, as well as other things, human *taste* has always been very arbitrary; so much so, indeed, that there is no knowing what beauty really is. Socrates called it a short-lived tyranny; Plato, the privilege of nature; Aristotle, one of the most precious gifts of nature; Theophrastus, a mute eloquence; Diogenes, the most forcible letter of recommendation; Carneades, a queen without soldiers; Theocritus, a serpent covered with flowers; Bion, a god that does not belong to the possessor, because, it is impossible to give one's self beauty, or to preserve it. After this most scientific display of quotations, all backed by the authority of the Greeks, we shall only add the definition of a modern author, who calls it a bait that as often catches the fisher as the fish; and also the serpent, who took the beauty of Eve for his text to cajole her to

perdition; and for which, we shall add, such of us as are not very much obliged to him, are very ungrateful. As to particular points of beauty, there would be no end to definitions; but those who say, that a certain illustrious Lady is not extremely beautiful, are no better judges than she is herself, *when she condemns* (as is said in the Narrative) *all the incomparable English women as inferior to* FOREIGNERS!!!

(W.) Page 72. This is a most indecent and illiberal remark of Lady DOUGLAS. It has no relation whatever to the subject of her narrative; and we are, in fact, totally at a loss to discover a motive which she could have had, for wounding the feelings of ladies who have the misfortune to be in a dependant situation (for dependence of any sort is a misfortune to persons who have been liberally brought up.) That they must be truly *respectable* persons we are bound to infer, from the situations to which they were appointed. It however does appear, that these ladies, or one of them, behaved *cavalierly*, as it is called, towards Lady D. soon after the *misunderstanding*. Mrs. Fitzgerald presumed to express HER *great disappointment* at the contents of the note which Lady Douglas wrote *to her mistress*;* as if the latter

* See pages 88 and 100.

was not to see any communication that her *ladies in waiting* did not choose to approve of! Mrs. F. it seems, afterwards rode past Lady D.'s house, and *cut her;* for which, we suppose, the latter has given her the *cut*, in return, that we by no means approve of.

(W.W.) Page 74. It is certainly less a *joke* in this country than in any other; for here many a noble hearted fellow has paid for such *fun* the forfeit of his life. We think there must have been some *basis* for this detail. It surely could not have been ALL *fabricated!*

(X.) Page 75. We really see nothing to censure in this lively condescension of the illustrious female. It shows at least, that she is totally destitute of *pride*—that obnoxious though too frequent attendant on stiff, starched rank. It is a pity, however, that her Royal Highness had not learned how to *qualify* her condescension, so as to draw the line between that *familiarity* which leads to disrespect, while it compromises true dignity, and that repulsive and despicable *hauteur* which seems to acknowledge no created equal.

(Y.) Page 77. There must, in all probability, have been several *other* persons in the room, besides Doctor Mackie—some four or *five*. Perhaps some of these are yet amongst the living, and have seen these assertions

in the Book. What then? says the reader. Why, what we mean to say is, that they cannot but know whether these assertions of Lady Douglas are true or false.

(Z.) Page 85. This is merely a matter of *taste*, in which great personages have all possible right to indulge, and which John Bull, who sticks to his beef and pudding, has no right to condemn. DIOCLETIAN, when clothed in the imperial purple, caused *lampreys* to be raised for his own eating; and we have even heard that *fried sprats* have sometimes been considered as a *dainty* at a Royal table. As to sitting upon the carpet, and taking supper in that position, there is nothing in this but the same good humoured eccentricity we have already been pleased with. In *Turkey* such conduct would be thought nothing of!

(A.A.) Page 86. This really does seem too absurd for credibility. It is liable to those objections which have been started against other passages.

(B.B.) Page 87. A reason is here given for the illustrious female's partiality to the Smith family, which is as affecting as it is natural. Gratitude for service of any kind, is a sentiment so rarely to be found in high life, that when it does occur, the solitary instance ought to be hailed with all possible exultation.

(C.C.) Page 88. Lady Douglas is here not correct in the idea which she would express. She could not tell what was passing in her Royal Highness's mind: what she *meant* to say doubtlessly was, that, in her opinion, the Princess *appeared* to hesitate, &c. &c.

(C.C.C.) Page 94. Impudent miscreant! Would this fellow have dared to display such malignant brutality, if he had not known that the late favourite of his mistress had been discarded? No doubt, he had at least a severe reprimand, when Lady Douglas exposed his audacity. Perhaps he was dismissed for his insolence; as he surely ought to have been.

(D.D.) Page 95. This correspondence, we have *strong reasons for thinking*, will at no remote time be published: indeed, we rather believe it is already in the press.

(E.E.) Page 96. Respecting the Duke of Sussex and Sir John Douglas, we should like to ask a very *plain question* of those who can answer it. It is well known, not merely from what is stated in the *Book*, that Sir John held a confidential and honourable post in this Prince's establishment. He was not merely in this employ at the time of the *delicate misunderstanding*; but he continued in

it till the spring of the present year, 1813. Just after the late explosion, however, and not before, (that is to say *eight years* after Lady Douglas was called upon for her testimony,) Sir John was said to have been dismissed from his situation. The *Pilot Newspaper,* at the time in question, contained the following paragraph:—" We are informed, from good authority, that the Duke of Sussex has suspended sir John Douglas from attendance upon his Royal Highness in the capacity of equerry." Now we would wish to ask why sir John was dismissed from attendance at *this particular time,* and *not before?* It looks as if either his past conduct had increased in enormity (if there were ever any thing improper in it) with the increase of time, or else that the illustrious Duke was complaisant enough to make, in the dismission of the Knight, a sort of *solemn offering* to the *Vox Populi!*

(F.F.) Page 97. " *Varium et mutabile semper Fœmina!*"

(G. G.) Page 100. If the reader can divest himself of the idea of the vast difference between the rank these ladies respectively hold in society, he will see, in this part of the business, nothing but an ordinary and ridiculous squabble between two females; one of whom, having received a *pique,* exercises her natural right of resentment.

(G.G.G.) Page 100. *Ladies in waiting never repeat any thing!* If we want any proof of this *undeniable fact*, we need only re-peruse *The Book*. They are all pupils of Harpocrates, the god of secresy and taciturnity; and it must be confessed, that, on *all* occasions, they do great justice to their instructor!

(H. H.) Page 99. There appears no doubt that this rupture took place with all the acrimony here exposed; as the same fact is mentioned by his Royal Highness of Kent, in *the Book*.

(I. I.) *Ibid.* From this we may draw the general inference, that *some* women can keep the *secrets* of others better than they can themselves.

(K.K.) Page 100. It ought to be recollected, in justice to sir John, that this belief was expressed *before* the investigation so happily and completely proved, he was mistaken.

(L. L.) *Ibid.* If Lady Douglas had doubts about the author or designer of such a precious article, she should have handed it over to those puritanical mountebanks, the *Society for the Suppression of Vice!*—But we forget—these godly quacks, no doubt, would not have

dared to interfere; they seem, in their operations, to acknowledge, with our immortal bard, that, when vice is plated with gold, it is invulnerable. On the question of the drawing, however, *we* have neither reason nor inclination to believe, that any *Royal* hand could have been stained by its production; we therefore shall not contest the opinion of Sir Sidney Smith, who said to the Duke of Kent these remarkable words; that the real cause why he, as well as Sir John and Lady Douglas, had made the application for an audience of her Royal Highness was, "a most scandalous anonymous letter, of a nature calculated to set on Sir John and him to cut each other's throats, which, from the hand-writing and stile, they were both fully convinced was the production of the Princess herself!" So says the Duke of Kent.*

(M. M.) Page 105. From this we may conjecture what is *yet* likely to happen. If sir John Douglas owed as much to his own feelings when all this took place, what does he not owe to them *now?* Is it to be supposed that he will sit down tamely, for the rest of his life, under such a load of open outrage, insult, and cruel injustice, as he has experienced? If he do, we think there will be no doubt, in the *Court of Honour*, that he merits all he

* See Edwards's Book, page 94.

has received. We are, in our own mind, *convinced* of the contrary. The press is said (how truly *we* cannot declare) to be already at work on a *new* Book, which is expected to contain an unreserved detail of every matter which has arisen out of, and had any bearing upon, the remarkable and unfortunate intercourse between the Princess of Wales and Lady Douglas.

The reader of the preceding passages will readily perceive, that the Commentaries on the Narrative might have been extended to a much greater length, if there had been any necessity for such enlargement; as there is scarcely a sentence of that document which does not afford strong ground for observation. It was not, however, the object of the author to make a *Book;* in proof of which, the reader is desired to observe, that two-thirds of the whole contents of the present tract are printed with small types; and in consequence, it contains about half as much more matter than is usually sold for its price.

The principal object of the author, as has been already observed, is, to vindicate Lady

Douglas against the prejudices of the public at large; but it must have been discovered, that the Defence has been written in the perfect spirit of independence; for Lady Douglas has not been *spared* on such points of her conduct as the writer has chosen to think demanded animadversion.

It may, however, be supposed by many, that Lady Douglas herself has had some concern in the production of this tract;—that she or her friends have *solicited* the author to prepare it;—that hints have been communicated for its contents;—in short, that this lady herself may have been the author of *more* than what therein appears with her name!

The writer knows too well the *perfect uselessness* of attempting to overcome prejudice or prepossession. If it were in this place to be *solemnly declared*, that *neither sir John nor Lady Douglas could possibly have known any thing of this publication till they saw it advertised;* and that its author (whose *sex* is not declared, because that is of no consequence

to the public) NEVER *either saw them or either of them; never corresponded with them, or had the least communication, directly or indirectly, on their behalf;* and farther, that *all possible means have been taken to prevent the name of the said writer* from becoming known to them or to any one else, except to the persons necessarily concerned in the production of the tract—If these assertions, we say, were ever so solemnly made, it is evident, that *nine hundred and ninety-nine out of every thousand readers* would not believe one word of them: all declarations on this head shall therefore be withheld:—it is useless to waste words, in attempting to remove incredulity. The public, therefore, well satisfied as they must be with the *quantity* of matter here presented to them, and equally gratified as it is hoped that *most* of them (but not *all!*) will be with its *quality*, are at liberty to draw, respecting the Author, whatever inferences they may think proper!

The four preceding paragraphs formed the close of the early editions of this volume. We now, however, find it necessary to insert a few more remarks, in consequence of the *notice* with which we have been honoured.

To say that this book has excited a *considerable sensation*, and that an unbounded curiosity on the part of the public to peruse it, has been followed by *an extraordinary demand for it*, are facts so evident, that merely to mention them would be supererogatory, if we had not a particular motive for so doing. This motive is, our wish to thank those *very learned* and *liberal* critics and journalists who, by entering into a controversy amongst themselves, about the contents and the author of the work, have done us the favour of *advertising it*, while we have laughed at their abuse, their credulity, and imbecility; and, remaining snug at our country-seat, have seen large editions go off without the expense of scarcely a pound note to make them known!

That the strictures on the conduct of the

leading *Address-mongers* would excite the bile of those democratical banditti, was naturally to be expected: Accordingly, in all such metropolitan journals and publications as they have been able to influence, or as are of the same kidney with themselves, attacks of the most ludicrous kind have been inserted; and, in one of the Daily Papers, a gallant *Admiral*, whom the author never saw, and who could have known no more about the work than the people at the antipodes, has been accused, point-blank, by somebody without "a local habitation or a name," of being the real father of this production; and we hear that some legal proceeding has been instituted in consequence!

In other papers, a dispute has arisen whether Lady Douglas be or be not the author; as if there ought to be any *doubt* at all on the subject! Some assert that she is, others, that she is not; but they unite in calling upon *her* to set them right, by some declaration or other! If it were only on account of

the *very great obligations* she is under to these gentry, she will surely hasten to comply with their wishes! As to the fresh abuse which they have vomited upon her, it must take its course; for the author of this volume must not descend to enter into a contest with the people of Grub-street.

The opinions of the *Fashionable World* are also equally well known to us, as are those of the Jacobin-critics. It is generally admitted, that what is herein said on behalf of Lady Douglas is *unanswerable*, and every person wonders how it has happened that something to the same effect was not produced long ago. At all events, they agree, that if Lady Douglas be the author, she possesses some small degree of literary talent; and that if she be not, she is under some obligation to whomsoever has stretched out a feeble reed to save her sinking fame. Some faint objections, however, have been started to this publication; which principally rest on the alledged *indelicacy* of certain parts of the Narrative. But here a portion of the public have

run into the usual error of mistaking the *effect for the cause.* That precious dish of *salmagundi* was not made for this publication; it was taken as it was found; and our readers have only to ask themselves where it was first prepared, and who furnished the *materials!* Another objection which has been transmitted to us from the *high quarters,* is one merely of *regret,* that a subject, which has made so much noise, should be again revived, instead of being suffered to die away. To this we may say, how can a subject which has formed a topic of universal conversation for nearly *nine years,* be annihilated from the mind at once? During the whole of 1813, the public scarcely read or thought of any thing else (except the defeat of the Corsican despot); and what Lethean potion have they lately taken to drive the whole from their memory?

As to the charge of *raking up* an old subject, we assure our readers that we have no qualms of conscience on that score. Dutiful advocates of the Princess of Wales, of the Prince Regent,

and the whole of the Royal Family, and, as true patriots, feeling proud in whatever may tend to their honour, glory, and happiness, we would willingly have consigned our observations to the flames, if, by so doing, a stop could have been put for ever to all farther comment or disquisition on the subject in question. But we pronounce, and the world must see, that this was impossible. The *infernal* BOOK is abroad; and it has become a legitimate object of CRITICISM. To raise an accusing voice against all or any publications of this last mentioned nature, is to aim an assassin blow at the most valuable privilege of Britons—the liberty of the press. In conclusion then, we shall only say, that if people, high or low, rich or poor, enter into hostilities with each other, and *with the established ordinances of society*, they have no right to complain if they get "*scratched by the war!*"

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Lords, Erskine, Spencer, Grenville, and Ellenborough, the Four Special Commissioners of Inquiry, appointed by His Majesty, in the Year 1806.

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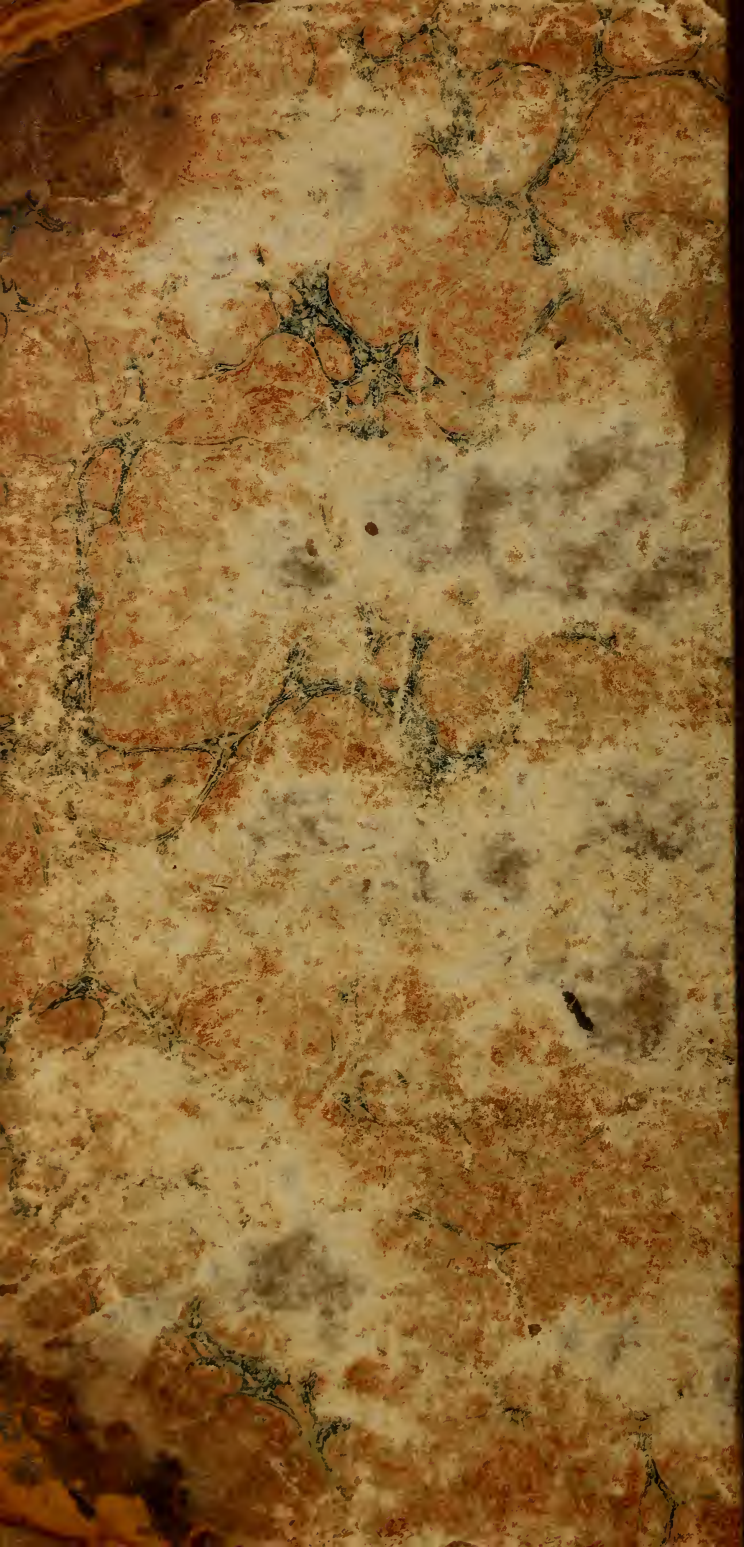
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